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WORLD CUP
SPECIAL



World Cup
In the supplement

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Drive to stay in surplus until next election

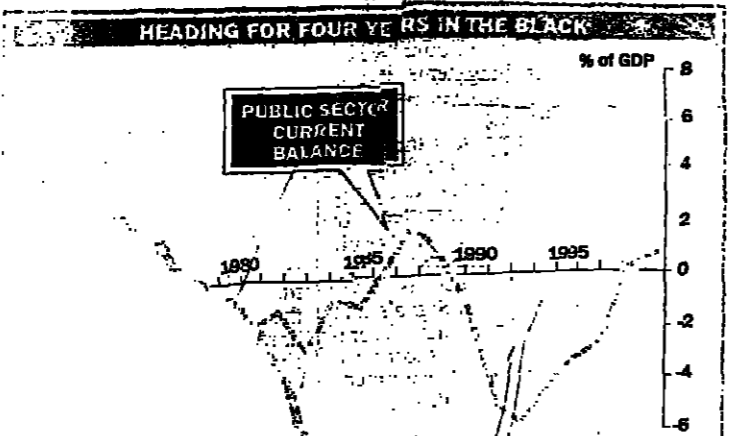
Brown maintains tough squeeze on public spending

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

GORDON BROWN is to tell Cabinet ministers that the stringent financial discipline of Labour's first year in office will continue until the next general election. With the agreement of Tony Blair, the Chancellor is to dash expectations that he has hidden reserves of cash by requiring the public finances to remain in surplus every year for the next four years. The decision is certain to mean that the public sector pay squeeze will be maintained because the Government will not be able to borrow to finance workers' demands. In February, the last month for which figures are available, public sector average earnings were 2.6 per cent higher than they were a year before. The story was the same in January. Private sector average earnings, however, were 5.6 per cent higher in February than they were a year before. This was up 0.4 per cent on the January differential, suggesting that the gap between private and public pay increases is growing. Mr Brown's move puts him on a

collision course with public sector unions and with ministers who the Treasury believe may have padded their budgets in the present Whitehall spending round. He is believed to be looking for cuts of up to £20 billion from the total spending bids put in by ministers as part of the year-long comprehensive spending review, which will reach its climax over the next three weeks. The Chancellor has decided that the reputation for prudence gained by sticking to Tory spending plans for the first two years of the Labour Government should now be "locked into the system". Mr Brown and Mr Blair have decided that the review, which will set spending figures for the next three years, will assume a public sector current surplus for all of that time, and decisions will have to be made in that context. He is insisting that the current spending budget — excluding public investment — should not merely be in balance, which governments have previously striven for, but in substantial surplus. It means that the Government has ruled out borrowing to finance any current spending plans, including pay and it will enable Mr Brown to achieve his "golden rule" — that tax revenues have to cover current spending. A government source said yesterday: "Those who said we would fail to show the necessary discipline in public spending have been proved wrong. But our discipline is not for one or two years. It must be continuous so that we can achieve a platform of stability from which prosperity will emerge." The new target for keeping the budget for current spending in the black is understood to have been discussed by Mr Brown and Mr Blair recently. Under present assumptions it is likely that the public finances — in deficit to the tune of £45 billion as recently as 1992 — will go into surplus sometime this year and remain there next year. But it is the first time that the Government has set itself the ambitious target of keeping current spending in surplus for such a long period. Treasury sources said yesterday that all ministers would have agreed to a rigorous pursuit of priorities. "It means tough decisions for all departments and ministers," one source said. Mr Brown's move comes as Cabinet ministers strive to justify their spending demands. It is likely to be the most acrimonious private debate of this Parliament. Ministers are making it clear that although there will be extra sums for the priority areas such as health and education — up to £9 billion extra in each — neither Frank Dobson nor David Blunkett can assume that their bids will go through unchanged.

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Going solo: Geri Halliwell before the split. The group's new single is called Viva Forever

SpiceWorld, the break-up

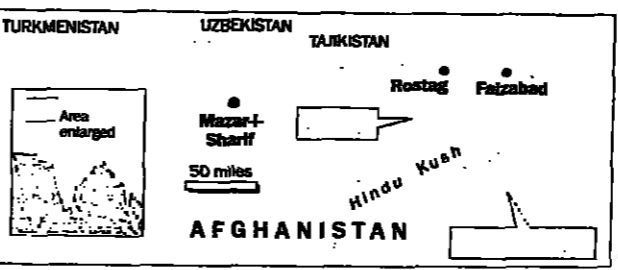
Girl Power were confirmed when lawyers for the two sides released statements announcing Ms Halliwell's departure, citing "differences" with other Spice Girls. Halliwell, who was credited with holding the band together after the sacking of their manager in November, is not planning to retire from showbusiness. She has hired Matthew Freud, the public relations guru who looks after Chris Evans, to mastermind her solo career and is expected to move into television. Meanwhile Victoria, Mel B, Mel C and Emma — Posh, Scary, Sporty and Baby — kept up a united, businesslike front. They will join Luciano Pavarotti and Stevie Wonder for a charity concert gig in Rome next Tuesday before embarking on

Palace tries to end Diana speculation

The Queen and Prince Charles plan to appeal privately to television and news organisations to stop speculating about the romantic intentions of the Princess of Wales. The Palace has sent a letter to the BBC and other major news organisations about the speculation in Paris. The Queen's household is understood to be distressed and concerned by the television documentaries that have been shown this week. A glut of such programmes ahead of the first anniversary of the Princess's death on August 31. Her brother, Earl Spencer, is also likely to appeal for media restraint. Senior government ministers share the Royal Family's view that editors and broadcasters should abide by their primary undertaking to respect the privacy of Prince William and Prince Harry.

Gascoigne left out of World Cup

ENGLAND'S World Cup prospects were dealt a devastating blow last night when it emerged that Paul Gascoigne, the man upon whom the hopes of the national team have been pinned for so long, has been left out of Glenn Hoddle's final squad of 22 for France. After 57 caps in eight years, a figure greatly reduced by the knee ligament damage he sustained in the 1991 FA Cup Final and a broken leg suffered when he was playing with Lazio in Serie A, last night's news is likely to represent the end of his international career. The other five players excluded from the final 22 are Andy Hinchcliffe, Phil Neville, Dion Dublin, Ian Walker and Nicky Butt.



5,000 feared dead in Afghan quake

THE military alliance controlling most of northern Afghanistan appealed for international aid yesterday after an earthquake killed up to 5,000 people. It is the second time in three months that a tremor has devastated the remote, mountainous region in the north-east. Four thousand people died in February when blizzards delayed help. The United Nations yesterday led an international rescue operation with airlifts of food, medicine and tents. "Information from aid workers in Takhar says 3,000 people have died," Chris Teitnick of relief agency Médecins sans Frontières said from the Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif. Local officials put the toll at 5,000. Villages were levelled when the tremor measuring about 7.0 on the Richter scale struck on Saturday. Among victims were children trapped under school buildings.

Welsh summit sits at £50,000 rugby-ball table

NOT to be outdone by the Lord Chancellor's expensive taste in furniture, the Government has ordered its most expensive table to accommodate 49 politicians attending the EU summit in Cardiff later this month. The £50,000 table in the shape of a rugby ball with a hole in the middle, made of American white oak veneer with purple steel legs, trounces the £1,000 purple steel legs, trounces the £1,000 purple steel legs, trounces the £1,000 purple steel legs. Ministers were so wary of the cost they agreed to purchase the new table only after guaranteeing that it could be used again. One plan was for the table to be used by the new Welsh assembly, but the Foreign Office has now decided to foot the bill. However, the Opposition has raised objections to the expenditure at a time when hospital waiting lists are growing and school classes sizes are rising. David Wilshire, Conservative MP for Spelthorne, said that he would be raising the matter with Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, tomorrow when he appears before the Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee. "I would defend the decision to acquire a multi-purpose table but I bet we could have more than halved the price. But a table with a hole in it like a Polo seems to me to be totally in keeping with this Government which has no substance. It also strikes me that here we are supposed to be cool Britannia leading the world in design and they have gone for US oak. What about wood from this country?" Foreign office officials agonised for months over the problem of seating the 15 EU leaders, their Foreign and Finance Ministers, plus Jacques Santer, the EU President, and a delegation from the European Commission. They were finally swayed to spend the money when they realised that the total cost of the summit is likely to fall well short of the £6 million budget. The rugby-ball shape was thought to be appropriate for the Welsh summit. Philippe Brandt's design is for a table that can be adapted for different rooms. The open centre can be used as a pen for the media. By removing sections the 52ft by 27ft table can also accommodate 40 at the Foreign Office or fit into the narrow

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Sinn Fein leaders say no to royal party offer

By JILL SHERMAN AND AUDREY MAGEE

THE Sinn Fein leaders, Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, last night refused an invitation from the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, to a royal garden party in the Province. They said it was because the Prince of Wales, who is to be guest of honour, is the Colonel-in-Chief of the Parachute Regiment, which was involved in the Bloody Sunday killings in Londonderry in 1972.

Mr McGuinness immediately accused Dr Mowlam of making a serious error of judgment by asking them to the party in the grounds of Hillsborough Castle, Co Down.

The row underlined tensions in Northern Ireland over the marches which are to be held before and after the elections to the new Northern Ireland Assembly on June 25. Weekend rioting over a junior Orange parade in Portadown which left 18 people injured has strengthened the resolve of Ulster Nationalists and Orangemen to hold their ground over the parades.

Up to 1,000 people have been invited to Wednesday's annual garden party to mark the 50th anniversary of the National Health Service. Sinn Fein said none of its representatives would be going.

A Sinn Fein source said the party's leaders declined the

invitation to avoid upsetting Irish republicans. "Prince Charles has never expressed regret at any time for what happened in Derry and we would not seek to honour him by going to Hillsborough Castle," said the source.

Robert McCartney, North Down's UK Unionist leader, blamed Dr Mowlam. "Sinn Fein are treating with contempt an offer that was made by the contemptible and which would have placed the Prince of Wales in an invidious and unacceptable position," he said.

"To attempt to use the monarchy in this manner for political ends is nothing short of despicable."

Dr Mowlam had earlier said that all 18 Northern Ireland MPs had been asked but had made clear that none of the republicans would have been introduced to the Prince, whose great-uncle Lord Mountbatten was killed by the IRA in 1979.

Interviewed on BBC's Breakfast with Frost she said the Sinn Fein MPs had been invited because they had signed up to the Mitchell principles of non-violence and democracy. "It takes families a long time to adapt to the pain and suffering and many never do. So it will not be a problem. I will make sure that if it is,



Residents of the Garvarghy Road clear up after confrontation between nationalists and Orange marchers. 18 people were injured

Prince Charles does not meet them."

Andrew MacKay, the shadow Northern Ireland Secretary said Mr Adams' decision to reject the invitation saved Dr Mowlam and the Prince from embarrassment. But he warned that the invitation itself would put the fear of God into the unionist community and could encourage them to elect people who would wreck the Assembly.

The Loyalists, vehemently opposed to the Belfast Agreement, believe that the Government has already conceded too much to Sinn Fein and pledges to fight over their right to march. Nationalists, for their part, believe that the marches are a test of the

Government's commitment to equal rights and parity of esteem.

The next expected serious clash is on June 19th, when Orangemen attempt to parade through Roman Catholic parts of Cliftonville and New Lodge estates in north Belfast.

The following week sees three more testing times in Belfast when three small parades preparing for the main parade day on July 12th will be held in the Springfield, Crumlin and Ormeau parts of Belfast, three areas with staunchly nationalist communities. Nine days after the election is Drumcree, the march down Garvarghy Road which for the past two years has led to murder and wide-

spread rioting in Northern Ireland.

"If we have learnt anything from the last few years at Drumcree it is that might is right. So rather than having 500 on the road we will have 2000," said one nationalist protester.

Gerard Rice of the Catholic Lower Ormeau Residents' Committee believes the assembly and peace deal could be seriously jeopardised if the planned stand-offs are not quickly averted.

Peace is breaking up but the parades are not conducive to that peace because Nationalists do not see any parity of esteem," said Mr Rice.

Police fire 30 plastic bullets in a bid to quell the disor-

der on Saturday night. Loyalists were also involved in the trouble, but republicans unhappy with the peace agreement were blamed for starting it.

Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble, member for Upper Bann, the area's MP, said: "I am not surprised the republican movement is trying to use the tensions in the community trying to derail the peace process."

At one stage a mob of up to 400 rioters attacked officers with blast, petrol and blast bombs. Bricks and bottles were also thrown.

It was the first major outbreak of street disorder since the Good Friday peace agreement.

Police find girl's body

THE dismembered body of a missing girl has been dug up from the foundations of a partially built house in Omagh, Co Tyrone. Police made the discovery after a tip-off.

Sylvia Flemming, 17, was last seen leaving a friend's house in Omagh on April 3. Last night detectives were questioning four people, including a former boyfriend.

Faiths join over Mother Teresa

RELIGIOUS and political leaders from around the world gathered in London last night for a multifaith service honouring the life and work of Mother Teresa. The service, at the Methodist Central Hall, was organised by Sigmund Sternberg, co-founder of the Three Faith Forum, and addressed by Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume.

Salman Haider, the Indian High Commissioner, gave a reading from Mother Teresa. Nuns from her order joined the service in remembrance of the Nobel Peace Prize winner, who died from a heart attack in Calcutta last September.

Spanish threaten delays to flights

TOURISTS flying to Spain this summer face more lengthy delays as the country's air traffic controllers threaten action that will lead to cancellations and delays.

The controllers say they will resume their action if the Spanish Airports Authority fails to meet their demands at a meeting today. Hundreds of flights were cancelled and thousands of passengers suffered delays when the controllers worked to rule on Thursday and Friday.

The worst delays were in Majorca where thousands of passengers spent the night on benches. Holiday charter flights from the UK to Majorca suffered delays of up to ten

Addison is tipped for top CPS job

A CABINET Office high-flyer and a former private secretary to Baroness Thatcher, Mark Addison, is expected to be announced as the new chief executive of the Crown Prosecution Service.

The appointment, a sign that Downing Street wants tighter control over the CPS, will be announced by the Attorney General, John Morris, QC, today when he publishes a highly critical report on the service.

Mr Addison, now head of the Cabinet Office Better Regulation Unit, is understood to be well recommended by Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary.

MoD goes on defensive to avert £2bn budget cut

A CAMPAIGN Treasury officials to slash the defence budget by up to £2 billion threatens to provoke one of the fiercest Whitehall battles over government spending.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, has told the Treasury that he can save £500 million from his annual budget as a result of his strategic defence review delivered to Cabinet colleagues several weeks ago.

Since handing over his recommendations for restructuring the Armed Forces, Mr Robertson has been given no indication from Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, that the offer of £500 million to-

Tory MEP hustings reject Hague's hard line

PRO-EUROPEAN Tories were last night delighted by the results of the selection hustings for Tory candidates for the European parliament held over the weekend. Most of the top places on the regional lists for next year's elections went to sitting MEPs or former MEPs.

"This is hardly a ringing endorsement for William Hague's hard line on Europe and the single currency," said one Europhile.

The results will be disappointing for the Eurosceptic Conservative Way Forward group, which organised hard to get its candidates in place and to dislodge sitting MEPs. Only one of its candidates, arch-Eurosceptic Dan Hannan, a journalist, is likely to be elected next year and only a handful of other newcomers have a chance of a European seat.

The top slots went to Edward McMillan-Scott MEP, leader of the Tory MEPs, James Provan MEP, vice-president of the European People's Party in the European Parliament and John Corrie MEP, Tory chief whip in the European parliament. Timothy Kirkhope, a former MP and Home Office minister, was ranked second in the Yorkshire region.

Some Tory frontbenchers are said to be considering raising the issue at this week's Shadow Cabinet meeting, insisting that the results do not reflect party opinion.

Twenty-one candidates were ranked in order - seven in the South East, six in Yorkshire and eight in the West Midlands - after being grilled at hustings held in these three areas. Only the top three to five of each region are expected to be elected.

Thousands of party members were bussed to the NEC conference centre in Birmingham, the London Arena in Docklands and the Conference Centre in Harrogate to take part in what was billed as William Hague's first "democratic exercise".

All those who attended were entitled to vote, but they were expected to attend the full day. Attendance was lower than expected - at the London Arena only 1700 party members turned up of the expected 4000.

In Taylor, from the Cop and the Peat, the Minister for the Environment, said: "The results of the hustings are a good sign for the party. It shows that we have a strong base of support across the country. We are confident that we will be able to deliver a strong government in the next election."

Ministers may axe council tax discount on second homes

THE Government is considering scrapping the 50 per cent council tax discount for second homes as part of an effort to discourage the middle classes from buying holiday homes in rural areas.

Ministers are studying responses to a consultation paper for raising the taxation of second homes and will make their recommendations in a White Paper due next month.

Whitehall sources indicated that the most likely option was lowering the discount, to say, 25 per cent, rather than forcing people to pay the full rate for second homes. The move would cost homeowners between £150 and £500 depending which option ministers prefer.

But some councils in tourist areas, such as the Lake District and Snowdonia, have been concerned by the escalating numbers of people who have holiday homes. They are pressing the Government to force owners to pay at least the full rate.

They have become increasingly irritated at the "ghost towns" that have proliferated because of second homes, and the higher house prices that go with them.

One council has urged the Government to create "council tax zones" where owners of second homes would have to pay more than the normal rate. Other councils have said that they would sponsor Private Bills to enable them to impose their own taxes on second-home owners.

There are now an estimated 500,000 homes in Britain that are charged at the 50 per cent rate, denying the Treasury £175 million per year. These include any home that is not the sole or main residence of the owner.

But only 200,000 homes are likely to be liable for extra taxation under the proposals being considered. These exclude homes owned by people who live outside England, main homes of other people (such as separated or divorced spouses) or second homes when an owner is moving from one house to another but is unable to sell the first.

Officials pointed out that there were several disadvantages changing the present system, particularly as there had been complaints. They also suggest that it would be difficult to pinpoint which homes were holiday homes or fell into the exempt category. MPs, for instance, often have a constituency home, but at the time they would be included in the 200,000 homes that are considered.

The deadline for the Government's consultation paper on council tax changes is today.

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Hoddle shows French mowers red card



The Ransomes mower is considered to be the best England coach calls in Wembley staff and equipment for Brittany practice pitch, reports Adrian Lee



Rob McCullagh, Wembley head groundsman, putting the finishing touches to the pitch at La Baule. The grass has to be cut to 20mm, the same as all the World Cup pitches

GLENN HODDLE, the England football coach, has upset French sensibilities at the team's World Cup training ground by telling ground staff that they are using the wrong sort of lawnmowers.

The lush municipal pitch at the Escoubac stadium near La Baule, Brittany, has long been a source of local pride. But when a scout for the England squad made advance checks, he was horrified to discover the grass was cut by council workers towing mowers with tractors.

The England coach, renowned for his meticulous approach, decreed that his players must train on grass cut to the 20mm they will find in all World Cup stadia. Instructions were sent for Wembley groundstaff to take over, using two machines considered to be the Rolls Royce and Bentley of lawnmowers, to cut the French pitch to perfection.

The local council was eager to please after upsetting their

illustrious visitors last year when the wrong flags were hoisted. England, using the same base while playing in le Tournoi competition, were greeted by scores of Union flags until the French were politely reminded that the cross of St George was more appropriate.

The council agreed to mothball its lawnmowers and all but one of the team of French ground staff were transferred to other duties, causing much disgruntled shrugging of Gallic shoulders.

One said: "We were told our machines were the wrong type, but actually it's hard to tell the difference." He sniffed: "But, of course we accept it because we are happy to have the England team here."

The Jacobson ride-on lawnmower brought in by Rob McCullagh, the head groundsman at Wembley, has seven blades and a £15,000 price tag. A second machine, built by Ransomes, which cut

the 1966 World Cup final, is being used for the finishing touches, rolling the turf and ensuring the cut is millimetre-perfect. This weekend, for the first time in its history, the Escoubac pitch is complete with elegant stripes.

"I believe this has come from Glenn Hoddle," said Mr McCullagh, who has worked at Wembley for 11 years. "The pitch was not bad in the first place, but you have to remember that there are a hell of a lot of games played on it. This will provide a better surface, like those the players can expect in the World Cup." He says the difference is obvious.

Mr McCullagh's cylinder mowers strip the grass as a series of blades move across a fixed blade at grass height. The stripes are made by a roller. The rotary mowers favoured by the French, which are pulled by tractors, rely on a single horizontal blade spinning at high speed.

The FA's decision to draft in machines and groundsman yesterday won support from experts in the field of lawnmower science. Keith Wootton, founder of the Old

Lawnmower Club and a collector of old machines, said the difference between the French and English techniques was enormous. "It is like comparing an axe with a pair of scissors. The cylinder mowers give a much cleaner cut because they don't fray the ends of the grass."

Mick Hunt, groundsman at Lords for 30 years, said: "The rotary lawnmowers are no good for professional jobs." He favours an Allett machine, an eight-bladed cylinder mower that cuts the outfield to five sixteenths of an inch. The Allett is made in Britain.

Lawn mowing was invented in 1837, when Edwin Beard Budding patented the first machine in Stroud, Gloucestershire. His invention is credited with helping the development of English sport in the 19th century.

The golden age of British lawn mowing was in the 1950s when hundreds of thousands of new homes were built with gardens. Today, the domestic lawnmower market is worth £175 million a year, and the boom in golf has created a massive market for precision machines. Three quarters of the world's golf courses use lawnmowers made by the American company, Jacobson.

The first commercial petrol driven lawnmower was manufactured by Ransomes in 1902. Its machines grace the lawns of Buckingham Palace, the courts at Wimbledon where the grass is cut to 8mm, Twickenham and the Old Course at St Andrews. The company was taken over by an American company, Textron, earlier this year.



Hoddle: wanted the pitch to be perfect

Long arm of the Krays keeps their files secret

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CELEBRITIES linked to the Krays twins in their criminal heyday are to be protected from public disclosure until 2032 after a review of hundreds of police files by Scotland Yard.

Informants who risked their lives to help detectives to put the gangsters behind bars will also have their identities kept secret. Police fear that the Krays' influence is still a power in East London and believe that informants must remain protected.

The names are held on police reports built up in the 1960s when the Yard tracked Reggie and Ronnie Kray as they rose to dominate organised crime in East London and then spread into the West End.

At their peak the twins ran a series of nightclubs and mixed with celebrities including Judy Garland, the Tory politician and television star Lord Boothby, and the Labour MP Tom Driberg (later Lord Bradbury). The twins were sentenced to 30 years each for murder in 1968. Ronnie Kray died in Broadmoor in 1995 and Reggie remains in prison. Their elder brother, Charles, was jailed last year for cocaine-smuggling.

The Yard has held the files for nearly 30 years and has decided to transfer them to the Public Record Office, which

stores Metropolitan Police records. A senior officer requested that the files should stay closed for up to 45 more years and kept in a secure section of the office.

Yard sources said that police were worried about the safety of witnesses and sensitivity over other people named in them. The first of the files will be released on January 1, 2032.

The request to transfer the files and keep them secret was made in 1995 but discovered by Colin Fry, an author, while he was researching his book *The Kray Files*, which is published this week. "Someone up there does not want something to get out," he said. "Why should someone put an embargo on them when secret files about the Russians and

spies from the 1970s have been released?"

The files could include names of those at the homosexual parties and orgies that Ronnie Kray held (he had a homosexual relationship with Lord Boothby). "There were a lot of unidentified people who went to the orgies," Mr Fry said. "Just who the police are trying to protect is a very good and interesting question."

The Krays were also linked with attempts by the Mafia to infiltrate gambling operations and the files might show organised crime had a stronger hold in Britain than police admitted.

A spokeswoman for the Public Record Office said only a handful of staff would have access to the files to make sure they are not damaged by age.



The twins in their gym: Reggie, left, and Ronnie

Disabled climber tells of life at the top

By MATTHEW BEARD

TOM WHITTAKER, the disabled British climber, yesterday described the moment he fulfilled his ambition of conquering Mount Everest, the world's highest peak.

Speaking from Kathmandu, the 49-year-old outdoor pursuits instructor said: "I felt an overwhelming sense of relief that there was no more mountain in front of me."

On reaching the summit on Wednesday, after three previous attempts, he spent 20 minutes taking videos and speaking to family and friends by radio. He then found a place sheltered from the wind and lay down to look up at the sky. "I was lying down there on my back like a turtle," he said.

Mr Whittaker, who now lives in Arizona, was accompanied by four Sherpa guides and Jeffrey Rhodes, a 43-year-old guide who is making an hour-long film of the journey to be shown next month.

Mr Whittaker, who lost his right leg in a car accident in 1979, wore a specially designed leg for the climb. He urged disabled people to not let their handicaps get in the way of realising their dreams. "Life is not a spectator sport."

He now plans to take a break on a Thai island "swimming and eating fresh fruits".

Young men racing to lose licences

By A CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 1,000 young drivers lost their licences in the first year of the New Drivers Act, the AA said yesterday.

Under the Act, brought in on June 1 last year, new drivers automatically lose their full licences and are forced to put the L-plates back on if they receive six or more penalty points in their first two years on the road. Older drivers are allowed a

maximum of 12 penalty points, although they then face a driving ban.

Andrew Howard, the AA's head of road safety, said that thousands more teenage motorists would be told to put the L-plates back on their cars over the next 12 months, with about 500 punished each month. "The new law has not yet had a chance to bite fully, because so far it has only applied to youngsters who passed their test after 1 June last year," he said.

"But by this time next year, when another 750,000 drivers will have passed their test, it will really begin to take hold."

Mr Howard added that the worst offenders were young men aged between 17 and 24, who took risks behind the wheel to impress their friends. "Now they will think twice, because they would rather behave themselves than face the humiliation of losing their licence and returning to L-plates."



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NHS chiefs knew of baby death rate

By IAN MURRAY AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE children's heart unit at Bristol Royal Infirmary was identified as having the highest number of deaths in Britain in 1989, five years before an official investigation.

A study commissioned by the Department of Health has been uncovered by the BBC1 programme *Panorama*. Four more couples have reported more babies in heart operations at Bristol after reading reports that two surgeons ignored warnings that too many were dying.

The 1989 study by the Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons on behalf of the Government disclosed that the Royal Infirmary's death tally was the worst of any of the nine national children's heart units. It had a lower-than-average number of children referred to it.

Instead of recommending any further investigation of the four statistics, the report said that Bristol should be

encouraged to increase their numbers annually."

The two newly publicised cases, two from South Wales and one each from Exeter and Bristol, emerged after the General Medical Council's disciplinary committee found that the doctors continued to operate despite warnings that they should stop. Previously Malcolm Curmow, of the Bristol Heart Children Action Group, had been aware of 78 deaths and 13 brain-damaged children after operations by James Wisheart, 60, and Janardan Dhasmana, 50.

The GMC meets on June 15 to hear mitigation about the two doctors before deciding whether they were guilty of serious professional misconduct. They will also consider the case of Dr John Roylance, 67, chief executive of the United Bristol Hospitals Trust, who is accused of failing to use his authority to stop the doctors.

Transsexual pilot wins bias claim

By A STAFF REPORTER

A TRANSEXUAL turned down for a pilot's job because she allegedly "flaunted her femininity" and posed a safety risk has won a case of sex discrimination against the airline that rejected her.

Kristina (previously Ian) Sheffield, 51, the father of a daughter, took Air Foyle Charter Airlines to an industrial tribunal after it twice refused her an interview. She has more than 34 years' flying experience and left Britannia Airways in 1980 after a sex-change operation, having earlier served in the RAF and the Rhodesian Air Force.

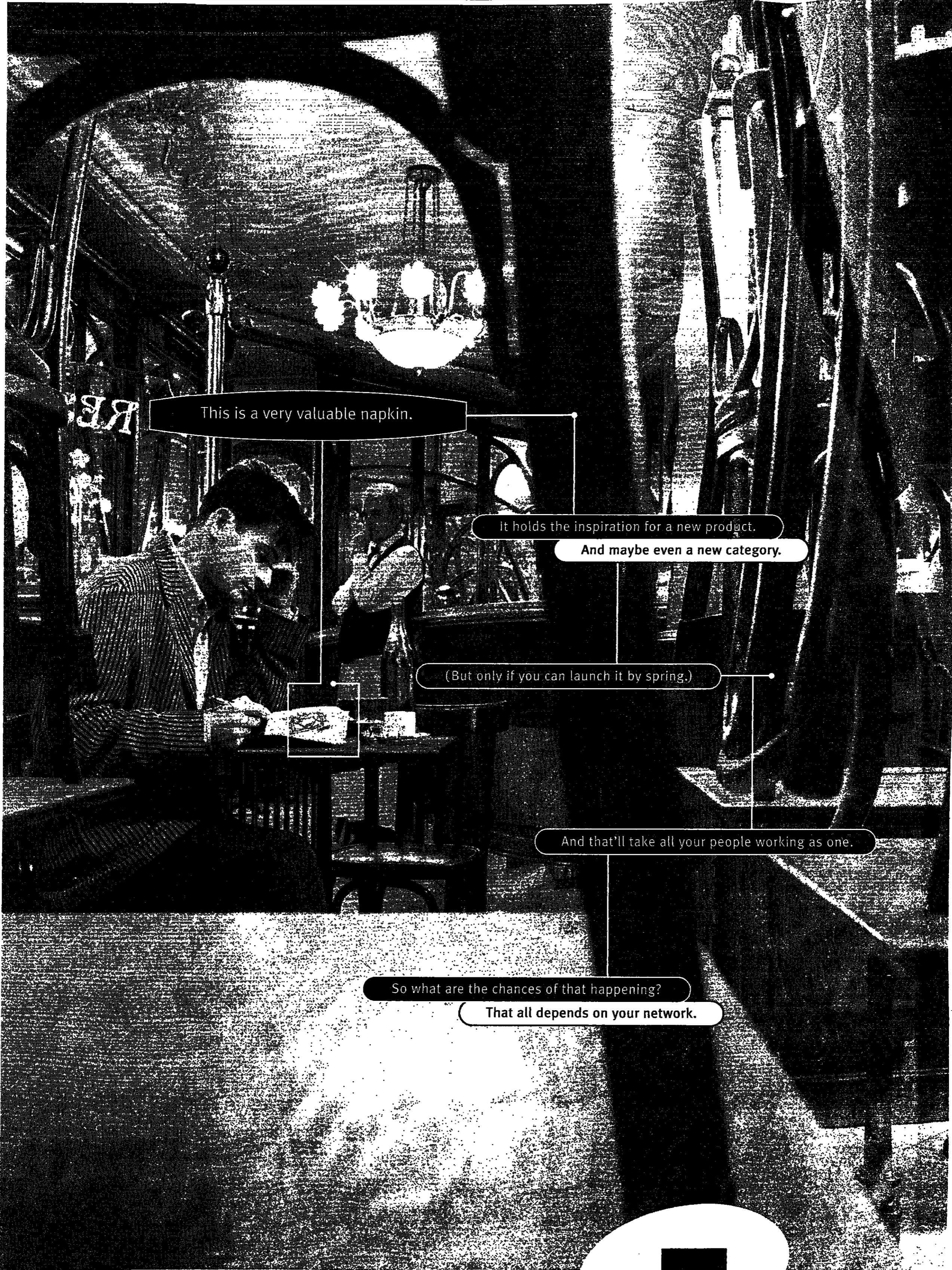
In February and July 1996 she was refused interviews by Air Foyle, which was then recruiting pilots for the low-fare airline easyJet. The second application was dealt with by Captain Michael Veal, a recruitment officer who had worked with her before. The tribunal did not accept his allegation that she was "un-

able to work in a team, was hazardous to safety, that she flaunted her femininity and that pilots were unable to fly with her."

It ruled that "the evidence shows nothing in her previous career which would render her unsuitable for interview for the positions which had been advertised... the applicant has been treated less favourably on the grounds of her transsexuality and this amounts to less favourable treatment on the ground of her sex."

Christopher Foyle, chairman of Air Foyle, said: "We have not yet received a copy of this decision and it would not be right to comment on a tribunal hearing until it has informed us."

James Rothrie, marketing and communications manager of easyJet, said Air Foyle was entirely responsible for recruitment of easyJet pilots at that time.



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Joe DiMaggio



Is it the end? No, but watch this Spice

David Sinclair, Rock Correspondent, on departure of the Girl who said her group's 'mission' was over

ONE thing Geri Halliwell said to me in February sticks in my mind. It was on the eve of the Spice Girls' tour that completed its European dates last week and continues without Halliwell in America next week. The girls were all typically gung-ho, but when I asked Halliwell for her thoughts on the new wave of British girl groups that had followed in their wake, she became quite pensive.

She remembered that, when the Spice Girls started, they struggled to get coverage in the pop press because boy bands were all the rage in those days, and putting girls on the cover was not the way to sell pop magazines. Thanks to the Spice Girls, the reverse is now true and a new crop of girl groups including All Saints, Cleopatra, B*Witched and others have successfully picked up the baton.

"We were on a mission and we've done our job," she said, wistfully. "You've got to be optimistic. We might turn another burst of enthusiasm. But, at the end of the day, it's not about continuing forever, it's about pleasing ourselves. We've already done more than anyone in their right mind would have expected."

Although the Spice Girls have been routinely derided by the music industry and a mass media that felt they had become too big for their boots, they have, for better or worse, redefined the nature of pop celebrity. It is hard to think of any other stars who could get away with pinching the Prince of Wales's bottom. Halliwell afterwards declared it to be "wobbly".

When President Mandela met the group, he proclaimed it to be one of the greatest days of his life. While many commentators assumed that the great statesman was being somewhat over-gracious, the Girls took the accolade in their stride.

"He met the Spice Girls," Emma Bunton (Baby Spice) later declared. "Of course it

GIRLS ON TOP

- The Singles**
- Wannabe (July 1996) No 1
 - Say You'll Be There (Oct 1996) No 1
 - 2 Become 1 (Dec 1996) No 1
 - Mama Who Do You Think You Are? No 1
 - Spice Up Your Life (Oct 1997) No 1
 - Too Much (Dec 1997) No 1
 - Stop (March 1998) No 2
- The Albums**
- Spice (Nov 1996) No 1
 - SpiceWorld (Nov 1997) No 1 (combined sales of 40 million)
- The Film**
- SpiceWorld: The Movie (Dec 1997 — revenue of £50 million, of which £13 million made in the UK)

was the greatest moment of his life."

As the brash and brassiest of the Girls, Halliwell always gave the impression of being, if not technically in charge, then certainly the bossy one. It was she who bore the brunt of the flak after the sacking of their manager, Simon Fuller, at the end of last year, and without her the chemistry of the Spice Girls will undoubtedly change. But as the Fuller episode demonstrated, the group has already proved tougher and smarter than many would have credited, and it is noticeable how much more circumspect people are being in responding to this latest development.

Halliwell was always the most vocal proponent of the "Girl Power" philosophy, and her greatest strengths were in motivating and marketing the group — in the initial branding of the product, if you like. Now that the Spice Girls' identity is established beyond anyone's wildest dreams, perhaps her job is indeed done. She has no immediate plans, but while little girls all over the world will today be regretting her departure from the group, the

comment at the end of her press statement — "P.S. I'll be back" — is likely to be no idle threat.

Perhaps she will become the new Cilla Black, of whom Halliwell once admiringly remarked: "She's done well for herself and she's got a great pair of legs." Certainly her meeting last week with Chris Evans, chief of the Ginger Media Group, suggests she might be dipping her toe in the water of a media career.

As for the remaining Spice Girls, all the signs are that they can soldier on without her, at least to the end of the American tour. The two shows already performed in Scandinavia without her apparently went well enough to suggest that her absence will not of itself be terminal. In the longer term, much will depend on the strength of their creative will and whether they have the ideas and motivation to record another album.

Groups from Genesis to Pink Floyd have prospered in such circumstances, but the loss of a founder member was the end for Take That.



Geri Halliwell chatting with Nelson Mandela in November last year, flanked by Victoria Adams, right, Mel Brown and the Prince of Wales



Cleopatra, one of the new wave of all-girl groups

Farewell with a £13 m fortune

Continued from page 1
a 40-city two-month American tour, which begins in Miami on June 15. They will release their eighth single *Viva Forever* next month.

Yesterday Halliwell, who is estimated to have amassed £13 million since joining the group, was holidaying abroad. She could face a multimillion-pound lawsuit for breach of contract.

She released a statement through her lawyer, Julian Turton, announcing: "This is a message to the fans. Sadly, I would like to confirm that I have left the Spice Girls. This is because of differences between us, I'm sure the group will continue to be successful and I wish them all the best. I have no immediate plans. I wish to apologise to all the fans and to thank them and everyone who's been there. Lots of love, Geri. P.S. I'll be back."

After her announcement, a statement for the remaining Spice Girls was read out by their press spokesman Alan Edwards, outside the central London offices of Lee & Thompson, the group's solicitors. They said: "We are upset and saddened by Geri's departure, but we are very supportive in whatever she wants to do."

"The Spice Girls are here to stay — see you at the stadiums! We are sorry to all our fans for having to go through all of this. All our love, Victoria, this. Mel C, Mel B. Friendship never ends!"

The announcement ended days of speculation about the group's non-appearance Halliwell's rest of the group when the BBC's midweek

lottery show. A damage limitation exercise blamed gastroenteritis for her disappearance as the band played their last two European concerts in Norway. But it soon transpired that there was a rift in the band.

Halliwell was reported to have fallen out with the group after they suspected her of plotting a solo career after she had a meeting with Chris Evans, the DJ head of Virgin Radio, as they flew back from Helsinki. Mr Freud, who is handling her publicity, was present at the lunch a week ago.

Halliwell has found it increasingly difficult to endure the lion's share of criticism since the band sacked their manager. An insider said: "She has been under incredible pressure. Her role in the show has been quite peripheral and lots of critics have taken pops at her. In the early days, Geri was in the forefront but when they became a live band it changed dramatically and it was down to who performed well on stage."

The remaining Spice Girls are also abroad. They are due to meet again in Rome on June 9 for the charity concert. They have also lined up four dates at Wembley and Sheffield in September, and are still planning a third album.

As speculation was rife about their future, Dennis Brown, the father of Mel B, aka Scary Spice, said: "They will be going ahead with the American tour. After that, we will have to wait and see."

"Mel is still a member of the Spice Girls and will be for the foreseeable future. I am happy that she is carrying on with the group — that is her job."

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Charities fight off lottery challenge to raise income

By NICHOLAS WATT
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S leading charities have succeeded against competition from the National Lottery and increased their incomes by 1 per cent to £4.4 billion in one year. High-street charity shops were the greatest success story, raising their incomes by 21 per cent.

The Charities Aid Foundation says in a report today that Britain's top 500 charities, including the National Trust and Imperial Cancer Research, all reversed the dip in their incomes during the recession of the early 1990s.

Oxfam, Britain's biggest charity, with an annual income of nearly £100 million a year and 647 shops across the country, increased the income of its shops by 10 per cent after an overhaul. The charity, which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year, closed unproductive shops, tailored branches to the local customers' needs and sent staff on training courses.

Sona Abantu, an Oxfam spokesman, said: "We have done market research to see exactly what people want. Our branch in South Kensington sells good designer label clothes, while our branch in



Dalston, East London, which is a working-class area, has been turned into a 'supersaver' selling cheap goods. We have also converted seven of our branches into shops called Oxfam Origin, which sell the latest retro clothes. Young people who want disgusting fashions for a 1970s party can come to us."

The success of Oxfam's shops was encouraging because it was the only charity among the top ten that had a dip in income during the period of the survey. Oxfam's income, which fell from £92.3 million in 1995-96 to £89.2 million in 1996-97, climbed to £91.8 million in the latest financial year.

legacies and voluntary donations increased by 7 per cent, while gift-aid donations increased by 34 per cent. The top 500 charities generated an average of £136,000 in gift aid in 1996-97, compared with £87,000 the year before.

Charities managed to sustain the growth in income despite a drop in central and local government grants of 8 and 23 per cent respectively.

The most successful charity of the year was the Salvation Army, with an income of £61 million, jumping from eleventh to sixth place in the foundation's league table. However, this was largely because the army combined the

THE TOP TEN

	Income in £ m	
	1995-96	1996-97
1 Oxfam	92.3	91.8
2 National Trust	77	84.8
3 Imperial Cancer Research	70.9	73.9
4 Cancer Research Campaign	60.2	69.2
5 British Heart Foundation	57.2	65.2
6 Salvation Army	55.3	61
7 RNLI	55.7	58.8
8 Barnardo's	47.3	52.5
9 Help the Aged	43.1	50.8
10 Scope	37.2	41.3
Total	577.2	646.7

incomes of its 800 local branches with its central finances.

Cathy Pharoah, the charities foundation's research officer, said that charities were enjoying the strongest growth in a decade thanks to Britain's strong economy and the efforts put in by charities during the recession.

The top charities' success confirms the findings of a recent study by the Institute of Fiscal Studies, which showed that the National Lottery has not diminished charitable donations. Research found that those who buy lottery tickets tend to be from lower-income groups who are less inclined to give to charity anyway.



Income from Oxfam shops, such as this one in Kensington, London, has risen by 10 per cent



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Therapist heads queue for Diana book tributes

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

A FIRST-TIME novelist has scooped established royal authors by getting in first with her anniversary tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales.

As the publishing world prepares to bombard book-shops with titles commemorating the accident last August 31, Elizabeth Vickers, a Jungian therapist, has given her work, *The Way of Gentleness*, a three-month head start.

However, all rival books in the genre are likely to be eclipsed on September 1 when Andrew Morton produces the paperback edition of *Diana: Her True Story In Her Own Words*, which will have an extra chapter. Publishers regard Morton's new chapters as more significant than most biographers' new books.

Any bombshells from Morton, however, are unlikely to be as startling as the story recounted by Vickers. It is based on a dream she had in which the Princess's body was replaced in hospital with that of a drug addict run over by the paparazzi.

The novel ends on May 31, 1998, with the Royal Family healed by the benign influence of the Diana figure: the Queen, asking Prince William to tell

her about the *Teletubbies*, because Prince Harry says they "are all the rage".

Ms Vickers told *The Times* that, in therapy, nine months was a recognised period after a tragedy when people began feeling more positive and optimistic, particularly if they had been allowed to grieve.

The 49-year-old author, who identifies with the Princess because she, too, is the mother of two sons, says she was a contemporary of the Prince of Wales at Cambridge. "I have been in the same room as him," she said.

"In dying, the Princess did something that was profoundly cathartic. It was a phenomenon of such astonishing proportions that it is absolutely legitimate to write about it."

Vickers, whose novel is published by HarperCollins, has just beaten Julie Burchill's biography *Diana* to the bookshelves.

Jon Trewhin, managing director of Weidenfeld & Nicolson, whose Burchill book follows two picture books by the photographer Tim Graham, and the investigative *Death of a Princess*, said: "There is a Diana industry that goes on and on."

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Pollutants blamed for dual-sex polar bears

FROM NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT, IN TROMSO

SCIENTISTS have discovered polar bear cubs with both male and female sex organs. The deformities are thought to be linked to the increasing pollution in polar regions.

The four hermaphroditic bears were found in the Norwegian Arctic territory of Svalbard, where pollution levels are known to be high. Government officials and the researchers who found the newborn cubs on the islands of Edgeoya and Hopen suspect that the deformities are caused by polychlorinated biphenyl chemicals, or PCBs.

The chemicals, which accumulate in fat reserves, are used in everything from electrical transformer fluids to greasing agents in nuclear submarines, and are building up in seals, on which the polar bears feed. PCBs are among the thousands of man-made substances that scientists believe mimic animal and human sex hormones.

Sex changes in fish have been monitored in Britain and in alligators in America, but the polar bears are believed to be the first to show such acute damage in a mammal.

Dagfinn Stenseth, the Norwegian Government's special adviser on polar affairs, said yesterday that the findings had implications for wildlife and human beings. "The polar bear, like us, is at the top of the food chain. We are very concerned," he said.

PCBs are banned in many countries, although Russia is believed still to use them. They are persistent pollutants that remain in the environment for many years.

The polar bear research adds to worldwide attempts to unravel possible links between man-made chemicals and sexual deformities and diseases in human beings, as well as animals. Over the past 50 years, sperm counts have fallen in men living in

industrialised countries. Some of the chemicals appear to mimic the female hormone oestrogen, while others appear to block or copy the male androgen hormones.

A spokeswoman for the Norwegian Polar Institute, whose scientists made the findings, said they had studied 90 polar bears this season out of the territory's population of some 2,000. "These bears have been studied for many years as part of long-term environmental studies. This season they registered the ones with two sexes," she said.

It means that bears with both sex organs make up nearly 4 per cent of the population, which is far higher than chance, and indicates that up to 80 polar bears in Svalbard may now be affected.

Andrew Derocher, the research scientist who made the findings, said yesterday that the bears were seen in April and May. He said that they had been discovering polar bears with both female and male characteristics for three years, but this year's tally was the highest so far.

Details of the findings have been published during the 22nd Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, taking place in Tromso. Delegates from 43 nations, including Britain, who have signed the treaty are discussing how best to deal with a string of threats to the continent in the wake of the ratification of the Protocol on Environmental Protection earlier this year.

The Norwegian findings relating to the Arctic, which is better studied, have strengthened moves to increase monitoring of wildlife and the environment in the Antarctic. Over the weekend, delegates agreed that a comprehensive report on the Antarctic environment, drawing on studies from countries such as Britain, was a priority.

Masterpiece revealed after 700 years

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A MASTERPIECE of 13th-century illustration that may have accompanied one of the grandest knights of the Crusades on his return to Palestine has come to light after 700 years in a private collection in Britain.

The Burdett Psalter is believed to have been made for Jean de Villiers, Grand Prior of the Order of the Knights Hospitaller of St John, who led the defence of Acre in 1291. It is expected to fetch between £1.5 million and £2 million at Sotheby's on June 23.

Christopher de Hamel of Sotheby's said: "I've been here 25 years, and it is one of the most extraordinary books I've seen." The illuminated paintings, dating from the early 1280s, are by the Méliacin Master, a court artist in Paris. Dr de Hamel said: "The newly discovered psalter is arguably his finest work, with page after page of illumination shimmering with gold and colours."

The psalter or Book of Psalms is believed to have been taken by Jean de Villiers on his return to Palestine in August 1286. Dr de Hamel believes that it was brought to East Anglia after De Villiers's death in Cyprus, to which he had escaped from Acre, badly wounded. Its owners included Anthony Hutton, a 17th-century master of the High Court of Chancery, who presented it to Jane Burdett, in whose family it remained until 1990. It was then sold privately to the present owner, who wishes to remain anonymous.



A Knight of St John kneeling before St John the Baptist



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£1,000 +	5.35%	4.85%	3.88%
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£50,000	7.50%	7.00%	6.00%
£20,000	7.25%	6.75%	5.80%
£10,000	6.50%	6.00%	5.20%
£5,000	6.10%	5.60%	4.85%
£1,000	6.25%	5.75%	4.60%
Monthly Interest			
£100,000 +	7.48%	7.24%	5.98%
£50,000	7.25%	7.00%	5.80%
£20,000	7.02%	6.75%	5.62%
£10,000	6.31%	6.00%	5.05%
£5,000	5.90%	5.60%	4.72%
£1,000	5.60%	5.32%	4.48%
Capital Trust			
Annual Interest			
Minimum Balance	Gross Rate*	Gross CAR*	Net Rate‡
£100,000 +	7.50%	7.00%	6.00%
£50,000	7.25%	6.75%	5.80%
£20,000	7.00%	6.50%	5.62%
£10,000	6.25%	5.75%	5.00%
£5,000	5.85%	5.35%	4.68%
£1,000	5.50%	5.00%	4.40%
Monthly Interest			
£100,000 +	7.25%	7.00%	5.80%
£50,000	7.00%	6.75%	5.60%
£20,000	6.78%	6.50%	5.42%
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Strain on executives hits breaking point

By Alexandra Frean

THE long hours executives are expected to work are taking a serious toll on their social and domestic lives, prompting increasing numbers of them to consider switching to lower paid, less punishing jobs.

A study based on the views of 5,500 managers has also uncovered widespread concern among company leaders that they may be pushing their staff too hard, forcing them to work longer, but increasingly unproductive, hours.

Nearly half the people who took part in the study, conducted jointly by the business magazine *Management Today* and the management consultancy WFD, said they found it increasingly hard to meet both their personal and work commitments as the pressure to perform at work left them less time for their personal lives. One in four managers said they would accept a pay cut to improve the situation.

Penny de Valk, manager of the consulting group at WFD, said she had been surprised at the intensity of feeling reflected in the responses to the survey. She had also been amazed that so many people had felt it important enough to find time in their busy schedules to take part. "This obviously pushed a button with many people," she said.

The survey shows that more than half of managers (52.5 per cent) spend between 41

SYMPTOMS AND SOLUTIONS	
Top ten sacrifices made by managers	Top ten wish list of remedies
1 Missing children growing up	1 Work fewer hours
2 Putting weight on home and family	2 Change the company culture
3 Moving home for their employer	3 Work flexible hours
4 Missing leisure/hobby time	4 Reduce or avoid commuting
5 Travelling from home, short term	5 Work from home
6 Breaking up with a partner	6 Change jobs or consider relocating
7 Travelling from home, long term	7 Have more staff
8 Missing out on work-related education	8 Earn more
9 Not having or postponing children	9 Retire
	10 Reduce stress

and 50 hours at work each week and a further quarter (26.4 per cent) average more than 51 hours. One in five regularly works on Saturdays; one in three feels he or she has very little control over the hours worked. More than a fifth said that the long hours they worked were not justifiable or were only partly justifiable in terms of productivity.

"Organisations have done what they had to do in the past 15 years to survive," Ms de Valk said. "They have got more from less by downsizing and increasing productivity. But the current situation is unsustainable. Many people are now demoralised at work. They will start voting with their feet and companies will find it hard to replace them."

She said that to engage personnel and get that extra 5

to 10 per cent of "discretionary energy" and commitment from them, companies were going to have to alter working patterns radically.

The study, entitled *The Great Work/Life Debate*, shows that nearly a third of managers accept that pressure is a prime cause of staff turnover. Sixty seven per cent of managers believe they are expected to ask more and more of their employees, with 35 per cent fearing they often make unrealistic demands on them. Only 33 per cent feel their organisation is doing all it can to help them to maintain a healthy balance between home and work.

The survey also provides an insight into the personal cost to employees of the current long-hours culture. More than 4,600 of the 5,500 managers

who filled in the questionnaire said they had sacrificed something important at home for the sake of their careers. Half regretted "missing their children growing up" or "putting work before family" the most.

Others revealed a catalogue of regrets, lost moments and personal tragedies ranging from simply missing a school fair to missing the birth of a child or being away from a partner during a serious illness. One man had to postpone his father's funeral. Ten per cent of women said they had postponed or foregone the opportunity to have children for the sake of their jobs. Women were also twice as likely as men to experience difficulties in forming relationships because of work.

The survey follows the recent publication of a government White Paper, *Fairness At Work*, which included a section on family-friendly policies that promised employees three months' unpaid parental leave and the right to take time off for family emergencies.

The Government is aware that there is a strong business case for encouraging a work culture that allows employees at all levels time to lead fulfilling lives outside the workplace. The cost to industry of employees taking time off to care or arrange care for a child or dependent relative has been put at £50 million by the Institute For Employment Studies.

Pressure to perform, page 46



Tim Prior: left marketing for a job in a physics laboratory. He says the lower pay is worth the lower stress

Happy to be out of the rat race



Richard Miers: from gym to garden centre

IT WAS at a seminar on stress management that Richard Miers, 28, decided to leave his lucrative job as assistant manager of a City gym (Alexandra Frean writes). He now works part-time in a garden centre and is studying to be a garden designer. Although his income was "virtually obliterated" by the move, he says he has never been happier.

"I was working around 55 hours a week and often had to do shifts during anti-social hours. My social life went down the tubes," he said. "My boss was doing 60 or 70 hours a week and I just thought to myself, 'Is that what I have to look forward to if I get promoted?'"

At the seminar he finally realised how miserable the job was making him. He looks forward to being self-employed and having control over the hours he works. "I would not want to work in the City from 7.30am to 8pm every day, even if I were earning £100,000 a year, because by the age of 35 or 40 I wouldn't be in a physical or mental state to enjoy all that money," he said.

Tim Prior, 30, a physics graduate, took a series of temporary jobs on building sites and went travelling around Europe after leaving his job as a lighting engineer and marketing executive for an American firm in London. He had been working from 7.30am to 8pm six days a week, and one Sunday in

three. On his frequent business trips he found himself working into the night in his hotel room. He realised the effects only when friends told him he was becoming aggressive and unpleasant.

"I just went in one day and said I had had enough," he said. He now has a job on lower pay, but says it is worth it for the reduced stress.

"I now work a 36-hour week, officially. Sometimes it is longer than that. But the difference here is that, if you work hard, you can usually get the work done in the time you are supposed to," he said. "The best thing about it is that you can plan to do things, knowing that you won't have to cancel at the last minute because of work."

Auction recalls furore over Big Ben tender

By A CORRESPONDENT

A BITTER and little-known feud between rival clockmakers pitching for the job of making Big Ben has surfaced in the forthcoming sale of original designs for the clock's huge mechanism.

The drawings, one eighth of the mechanism's actual size, were created by the Astronomer Royal, Sir George Airy, in 1852 and contain his recommended specification for the clock.

They are expected to fetch up to £2,000 at Christie's in London on June 10 and have exposed a ten-year wrangle surrounding the construction of Big Ben.

After the Great Fire of 1834, the architect Charles Barry was commissioned to rebuild the Palace of Westminster and its tower. He gave the contract for Big Ben's mechanism to his friend, Benjamin Vulliamy, whose family had been in the clockmaking busi-

ness for 100 years. Vulliamy agreed to do it, provided he was paid £100 for producing initial plans.

However, a dispute erupted when Edward Dent, a rival clockmaker, wrote directly to the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Woods and Forests, the department overseeing the building work, pitching to design the mechanism. Viscount Canning, the First Commissioner of Woods and Forests, put the work out to tender immediately.

It was then that the Astronomer Royal was called in to provide the drawings as guidelines for the chosen maker to follow. He also drew up a short list of the three he thought best qualified for the job, two of which were Vulliamy and Dent, although Airy already thought that Dent was the best candidate for the job.

On hearing of the competi-

tion, and Airy's proposed specification, Vulliamy immediately resigned, with a curt letter to the commissioners that read: "My general rule of conduct has been in all cases to decline competition... I have concluded to decline it."

However, he later sent in a drawing for the mechanism without an estimate. Dent quoted £1,500 for the work, a figure which represented little if any profit but virtually guaranteed success and the huge prestige that would result from being the maker of Big Ben.

It was not until 1852, four years later, that Dent was accepted for the task. He died in March 1853 without seeing the clock up and running, but the work was taken up by his stepson, Frederick Dent, and the clock was eventually installed in March 1859. Dent and Co maintained it until 1971.

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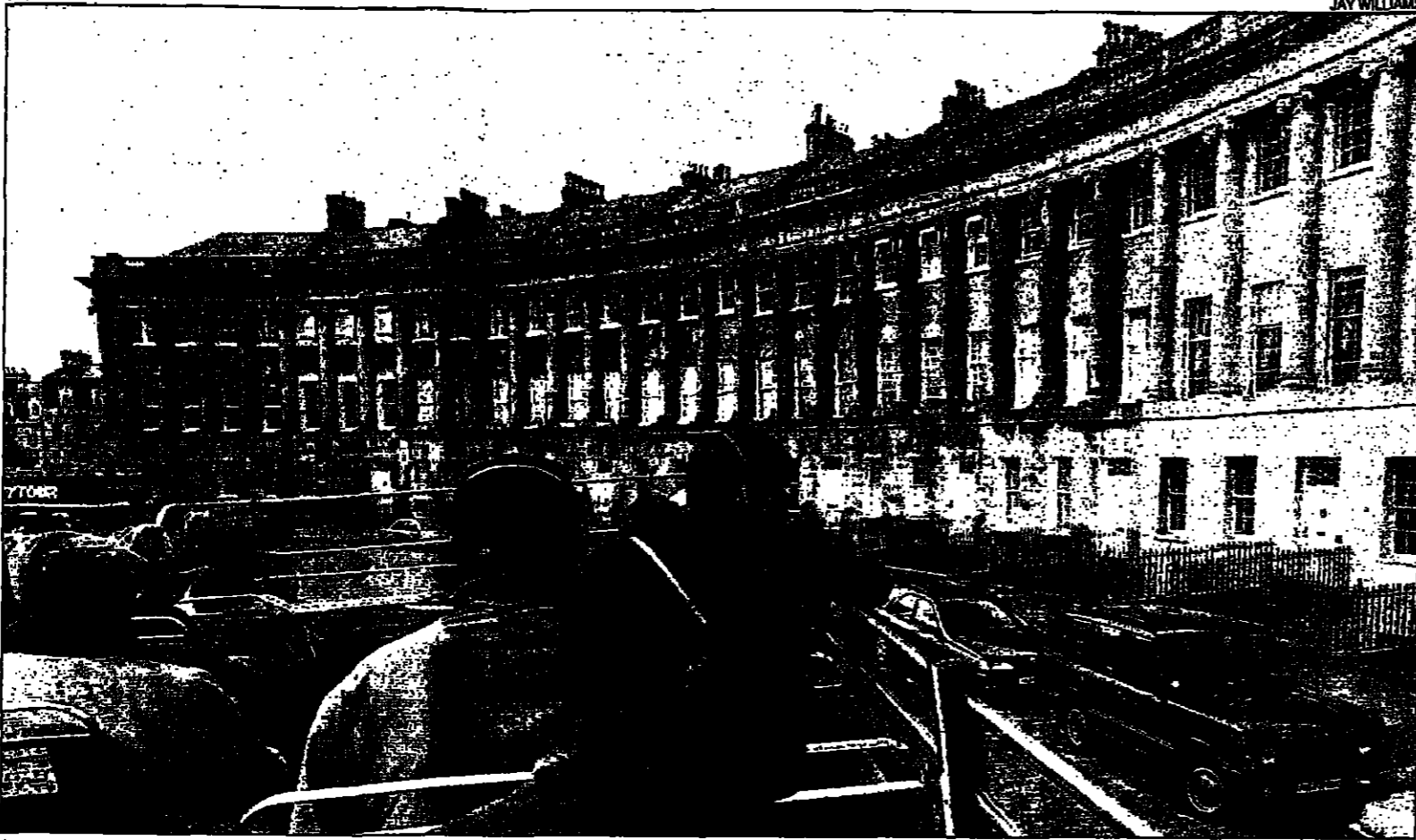
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Armchair guide to Bath's bus blight



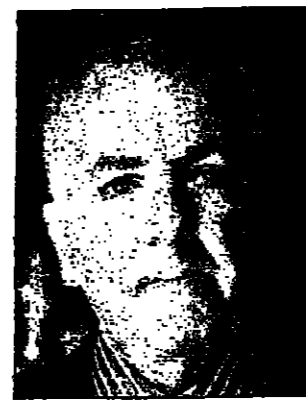
Royal Crescent: the ever-present tour buses are damaging the stone paving and annoying residents with their noise, vibration and fumes

An inquiry starting today will hear from a resident who counted 99 tours in one day, writes Simon de Bruxelles

EVERY few minutes the panes in John Walker's elegant Georgian windows rattle and clouds of diesel fumes waft in from the street three floors below. Royal Crescent in Bath is under assault from the convoys of open-top double-decker tour buses that trundle by from dawn to dusk.

From the desk where he is editing the latest edition of *Halliwel's Film Guide*, Mr Walker can hear the running commentary given by the tour leaders as they describe the splendours of the city's grandest 18th-century street. What the guides do not tell the sightseers taking snapshots from the top deck is that the buses are damaging the very landmark they have come from around the world to see.

Shallow depressions mark the route of the nine-tonne buses that pass under Mr Walker's windows at the rate of between ten and 20 an hour. The stone paving blocks laid when the crescent was built in the 1760s have been damaged more in the past ten years than in the previous 200. The railings that line the road



Daw: wants tourists to visit crescent on foot

become more distorted by the year. Inside the drawing rooms that look out across the city, owners worry at every flake of plaster dislodged from their ornate stucco ceilings. Bath's local authority will try to persuade a public inquiry, opening today, to allow it to close one end of the Grade One listed crescent to traffic to keep the buses out. Among the evidence to be presented will be a survey conducted by Mr Walker from an armchair in his flat. Fed up with the noise, vibration and fumes, he positioned a video camera on the balustrade outside his window and sat down to watch the "most boring film in the world". He stayed awake long enough to count 99 buses passing in one day.

But the closure move is being fiercely resisted by the bus operators, who forced the inquiry and claim that Bath's economic livelihood would be jeopardised if tours were curtailed. Their customers, the tourists who pay £6.50 for a tour of the city, would be appalled to know they could be contributing to its decline. They might be equally surprised to learn that, contrary to the evidence of their eyes, tour coaches were banned from Royal Crescent in 1985 because of the damage they were causing.

The operators of the open-top tour buses that replaced the coaches have been able to exploit a loophole created at

about the same time. When the bus services were deregulated by Margaret Thatcher's Government, councils were prevented from banning properly scheduled services. This was intended to promote competition. The result was that the operators of the open-top buses drew up timetables to protect their services and have had to stick to them whether they had passengers or not.

Michael Daw, chairman of the Royal Crescent Society, which is campaigning for the road to be closed, said: "You sometimes get the ludicrous situation of tour buses going past with no one on board just to keep up their timetable. Since our last survey, in 1993, the number of open-top buses has doubled and the average number of passengers on each has halved."

"We recognise that tourism is the life-blood of a city like Bath, but the priority has to be to prevent any further damage. The crescent was perfectly designed for promenading and was never intended for this level of traffic. So, while we welcome everyone who wants to visit, we would rather they came on foot."

Royal Crescent was built to satisfy a demand for living in the grand style as Bath reached the peak of its popularity as a fashionable resort and spa. Owners looked out over meadows and parkland to the Avon and were able to imagine they were living in their own stately home.

All but seven of the 30 houses in the crescent have long since been sub-divided into flats. There is one very discreet hotel and a museum of Georgian life. Other than that, not much has changed in Royal Crescent, once described as "Coronation Street with culture".

Visitors who arrived on foot yesterday were able to admire the columned facade exactly as John Wood the Elder, its architect, intended. Then the ground shook and two storeys of brightly coloured metal box rumbled in to block their view.

Right to roam 'needs legal force to work'

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

A PUBLIC right to roam over the vast majority of uncultivated countryside must be guaranteed by law, the Countryside Commission recommends today. It rejects any idea of compensation for private landowners.

The move by the Government's main countryside and landscape adviser comes a day before landowners are due to unveil their own plans for improving public access by voluntary agreement rather than by compulsion.

The Countryside Commission says that, if the Government is to keep its promise of a right to roam over millions of acres of Britain's most beautiful scenery, then "some legislation will be required to create and help control access". It adds:

"Access on this scale will represent a significant cultural change, and investment in education will be needed to ensure that visitors and landowners both respond constructively." However, it sees no need to compensate landowners beyond gates and paths, and to encourage maintenance.

"We have come to the conclusion that the voluntary approach alone cannot meet the Government's objectives as regards the permanency or the extent of public access," said Paul Johnson, the commission's senior access adviser. "Although a statutory right to roam might depress land values initially, we believe the effect will be very temporary. It is not obvious to us why landowners should suffer long-term adverse financial consequences."

A legislative approach is felt to be the only way in which access, once granted, will never be taken away. The commission document says: "As we understand the present law, permanent access can only be achieved through some kind of statutory provision - either the current local-authority powers (which are virtually never used to this effect) or new

law," the document states. Most voluntary agreements on access are of limited duration and have to be negotiated. Even long-term access deeds granted under the Law of Property Act of 1925 can be revoked.

The Country Landowners' Association, whose 50,000 members are estimated to own half of England and Wales, said that the recommendation was "very disappointing". Tony Bailey, director of policy, said: "We remain firmly committed to the voluntary approach, which we believe can deliver the substance of what the Government wants. If the Government decides to go down the statutory route, there will be real difficulties in defining the type of landscape to which access will apply."

The CLA has said it will consider seeking financial redress under the European Convention on Human Rights if a right to roam is imposed. The CLA will tomorrow report on progress in opening up

more privately owned countryside on a voluntary basis under a scheme it launched last year.

The commission says that voluntary access agreements would be likely to work only if backed by financial incentives of the kind offered under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme to farmers for wildlife and landscape conservation. Such deals could cost £40 million a year.

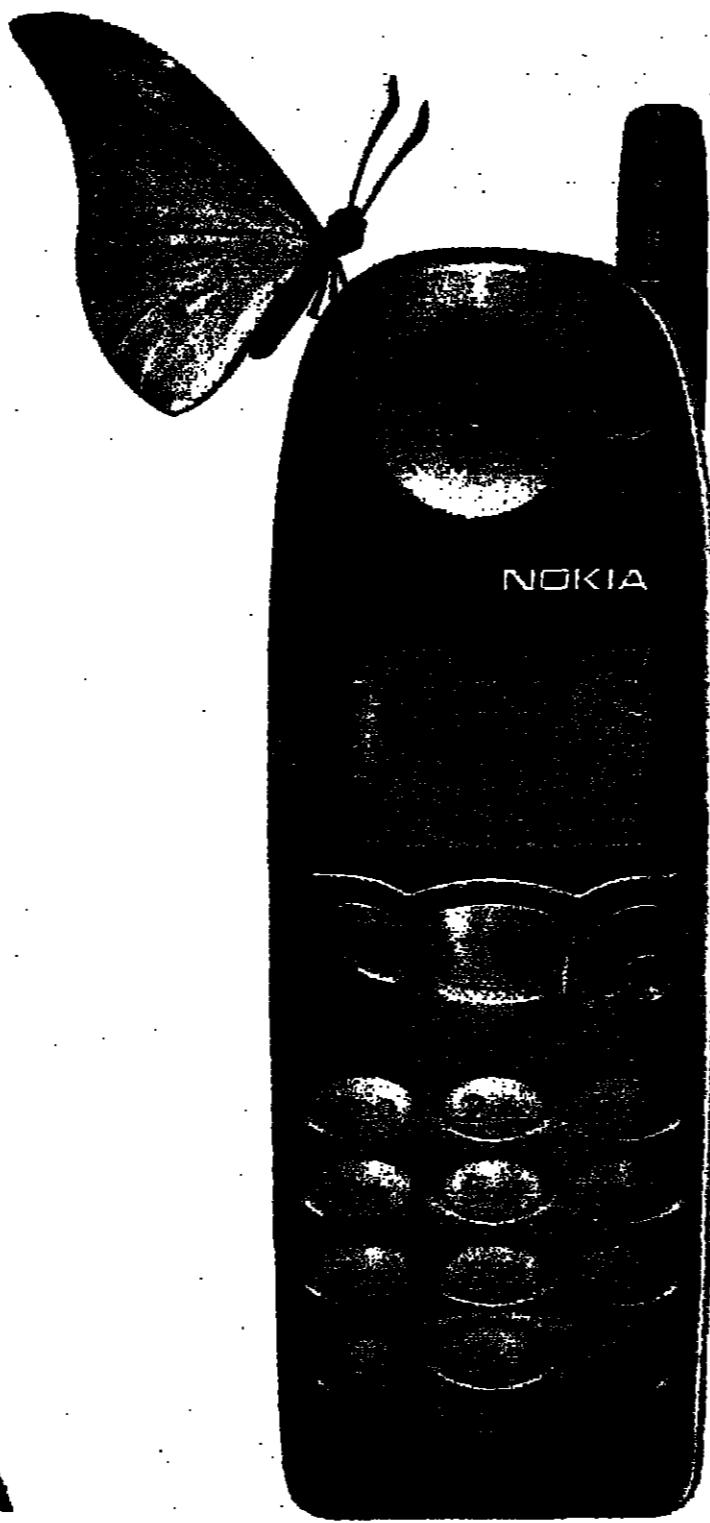
Landowners argue that existing footpaths and rights of way provide adequate public access, and that conservation would become impossible if walkers were allowed to roam anywhere. Sir Anthony Milbank, chairman of the Moorland Association, owns several thousand acres of heather moor in North Yorkshire. He said: "We have 14 miles of footpaths on our estate, which works out at about one mile for every 250 acres of land. There is no part of the estate which walkers cannot see using these paths."



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Pakistan starts big build-up of nuclear arsenal

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN defied international criticism of its latest rounds of nuclear tests by pledging yesterday to press ahead with development of its nuclear arsenal, probably numbering 15 to 25 weapons, none yet operational.

Abdul Qadeer Khan, father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb, said mass production of its medium-range Ghauri missile, which could carry nuclear warheads, had begun. Pakistan was capable of deploying nuclear weapons within days. Its nuclear devices were superior to India's, because they used enriched uranium technology while India employed "dangerous and cumbersome" plutonium technology.

Navaz Sharif, the Pakistani Prime Minister, held up the possibility that his country will sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), but only after international inter-

ARMS RACE

vention to solve the 50-year-old Kashmir conflict. He said Kashmir was the root cause of the problem.

The linkage threatens to make it all but impossible to pull the two enemies back from their race to put nuclear tips on missiles. American analysts believe Pakistan could probably assemble its nuclear weapons in a few weeks if it started to take a battlefield beating in any new conventional conflict.

India refuses to accept outside mediation in its battle with Pakistan over Kashmir, regarding it as an internal matter. The Islamic state is now holding out the offer of nuclear restraint as a pay-off for internationalising the Kashmir dispute — a consistent policy objective that India has successfully thwarted, save for the passage of some United Nations resolutions

that are too old or soft to mean much.

The UN Security Council "deeply deplored" Pakistan's latest nuclear test on Saturday, which Islamabad said marked the end of its "current series" of tests. India, which exploded five nuclear devices three weeks ago, pledged to maintain its moratorium on further testing. The UN called on both countries to sign the test-ban treaty, something India has not ruled out.

Pakistan claimed to have tested five nuclear weapons on Thursday, although US analysts said they had detected a single, relatively weak seismic signal from the test site in the Baluchistan desert. The Government said it was withdrawing missiles deployed on the border with India last week in case of an Indian attack on its nuclear facilities.

The scientists who detonated the devices returned to Islamabad yesterday to a heroes' welcome as crowds



Ashfaq Ahmed, chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, leads scientists to a heroes' welcome on their return to Islamabad

cheered and threw rose petals over them. The Government announced that it was cutting expenditure by half on everything except development outlays in a massive austerity drive to survive the impact of international sanctions after

the blast. This effectively means a 50 per cent cut in public spending on civilian programmes, which is no more than 20 per cent of total spending, compared with 29 per cent for the military budget. The euphoria over the

nuclear explosions could evaporate rapidly if sanctions hurt the poor majority, 61 per cent of whom are illiterate. Pakistan could default on its huge £20 billion debt, threatening economic reverberations far beyond its borders.

Delhi yesterday called on all states possessing nuclear weapons to join it for talks aimed at establishing a new convention on arms control. Without Pakistan's participation, such talks would be all but meaningless. There is little

likelihood that Islamabad will respond to the initiative without prior movement by Delhi on Kashmir, and that is equally unlikely.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20
Letters, page 21

Border villagers forced to tread deadly tightrope

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN BANDALA SERI ON THE KASHMIR BORDER

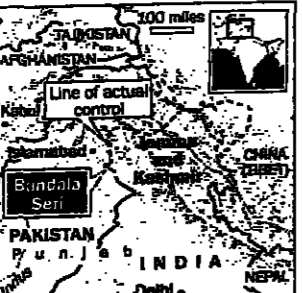
DUSK falls over the village of Bandala Seri, on Pakistan's side of the Kashmir border. A mosque calls men to prayer as rifle and machinegun fire explode from bunkers in the Indian-held hills 300 yards away. This is life on the line, perilous, sometimes brief.

Hardly a day passes without gunfire from the hills, usually aimed at Pakistan Army bunkers but sometimes targeted on a buffalo or goat, and occasionally a person. Last week a 35-year-old woman was killed.

When the guns fall quiet, the silence is unnerving. The pastoral scene jars with the reality of war, for war is what it is: small-scale and undeclared, but constantly capable of escalating into the third big border conflict over Kashmir.

Pakistani soldiers walk about in civilian clothes, big army boots poking oddly out of baggy cotton trousers, and they neither salute nor openly carry weapons. They shuffle across the fields, trying to look like villagers, aware that enemy troops are watching through telescopic sights.

Any hint of being a soldier brings an Indian bullet. Men have died for absent-mindedly throwing a salute or shouting a command. The enemy is close enough to hear, to spot a hand-held radio, to sense a military gait, even to identify army boots if they are not properly covered. It tears the nerves to walk this gauntlet.



KASHMIR

Since 1947, when Kashmir was divided along a United Nations-monitored ceasefire line, Bandala Seri has been on one of the world's most volatile front lines. Now it is in the world's most likely nuclear battlefield, surrounded tragically by spectacular scenery.

A month ago a group of men raided Bandala Seri, cutting throats, shooting people in the head, stabbing them with long knives. Photographs of the carnage show a baby with a bullet hole in its forehead. In all, 21 people died. One man lost his wife, two children, his father and mother. Everybody blames Indian commandos, but in this vengeful society it might have been linked to local rural politics. It has rarely been this bad. Tensions have risen and subsided constantly over the decades, but in the past month the intensity of firing has been almost unprecedented. India alone is not responsible for the wanton killing of civilians: the Pakistani side has inflicted a high toll by blasting Indian villages with artillery, bringing a response in kind.

The ceasefire line, later slightly modified and renamed the line of actual control, winds through 300 miles of mountains. Thousands of troops patrol both sides, picking each other off as best they can across the ravines. India has created a no man's land one or two miles wide but Pakistan has moved nobody away from the border.

Imtiaz Ahmed, a policeman in charge of the local police post, points out the Indian bunkers, which cling against the brown of the treeless hills. A soldier in civilian clothes arrives shaking, almost crying: he was walking across the fields when the machineguns opened up, and he thought they were meant for him. There was hugging all round, ending another dangerous day on the line.

Britain ready to profit from financial panic

BY HELEN RUMBLOW

PAKISTAN is ill-equipped to weather the economic fallout from its nuclear tests, with a more puny economy and far fewer foreign exchange reserves than India, its relatively giant neighbour.

Pakistani banks were closed on Friday, frustrating the queues of people desperate to get hold of foreign exchange after Thursday's tests. Those queues are seen by analysts as a small omen of financial panic to come once the banks open, and the emergency freeze on foreign exchange is lifted.

Britain may end up being one of the only beneficiaries of the crisis. With British businesses the second largest foreign investor — 35 per cent of foreign investment to America's 36 per cent — it will be poised to move in if sanctions force out US banks. Although the effects of US sanctions imposed on India for its tests last month are still hard to gauge, there is a

ECONOMIC FALLOUT

consensus that Pakistan is taking the bigger gamble. If sanctions are imposed, its depleted foreign exchange reserves — which stood at \$1.9 billion (£1.2 billion) on May 23 — and large international debt would be dangerously stressed.

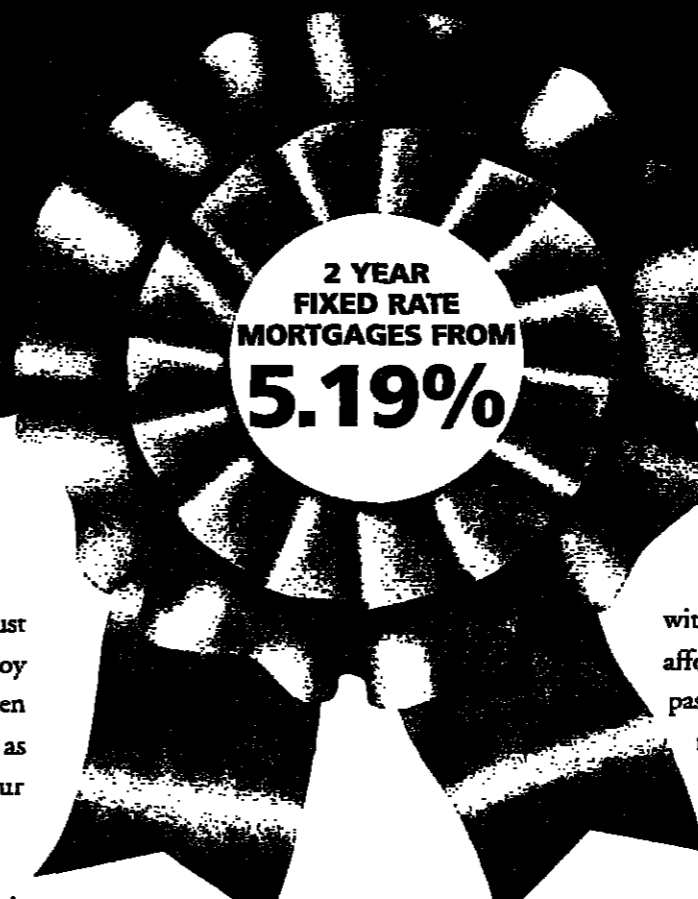
For foreign investors, the situation is less gloomy, said Hamish Watson, an international director with Renaissance, a management consultancy. "Some may view the tests as being better for the long-term Pakistani economy, if they are able to establish greater political stability."

"They may help to reduce Pakistani spending on defence," Mr Watson said. "But fence," Mr Watson said, "is the negative side to that is that Pakistan is playing a dangerous game which makes investors nervous. They flee from a country that looks like it is going to war."

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Albanian monarchy 'aided by conflict'

BY MICHAEL EVANS

THE struggle of the two million Albanians in Kosovo for autonomy within Yugoslavia has strengthened the campaign for the return of the monarchy in Albania, sources close to the exiled King Zog said yesterday.

They said that King Zog was the only leader to have called for the recognition of "ethnic Albanians". Fatos Nano, the Socialist Prime Minister of Albania, accepted Kosovo as part of Yugoslavia, the sources said.

In supporting an ethnic Albanian, King Zog has emphasised he is not calling for the creation of a "greater Albania". However, he is seeking recognition by the international community of the right of self-determination of Albanians who are in a majority in the areas where they live, such as Kosovo.

Kosovo rebels dig in as Serb troops advance

FROM TOM WALKER IN LAPUSNIK

THE war in Kosovo has spread to within 20 miles of Pristina, the capital, as Serb security forces have extended their cleansing of strategic villages.

Throughout last week intermittent heavy fighting was reported from Decane, the western border area that has been sealed from the prying eyes of the Red Cross, humanitarian agencies and the media for more than a fortnight. Twenty Albanians are feared to have died.

On Friday the fighting took hold just west of Pristina, when the Serbs began shelling and burning villages straddling the region's most important east-west axis, the road from Pristina to Pec, Kosovo's main border town which has links to Montenegro and Albe-



Rugova: ready for talks

nia. Yesterday a few houses in Lopusnik poured thick black smoke into the summer sky. A disquieting no man's land had formed around the village, the first west of the Komoran checkpoint, which is the Serbs' last big security barrier on the road: beyond it lies the airport, and then Pristina itself. On

Friday evening, special police units at Komoran claimed that they had freed the highway, which has been closed for the best part of a month.

"We can now drink Pec beer again," said one, gathering with his colleagues behind the protection of three armoured vans mounted with cannon.

Lopusnik lay smouldering two miles distant, from where Komoran is peppered by Kosovo Liberation Army sniper fire nightly. But approaching Lopusnik from KLA-controlled territory southwest of the highway gave a different impression. Just over the brow of the hill and out of sight of the Serbs, the Albanians had set up a barrier of ploughshares across the road, behind which the KLA's war preparations were continuing apace. We zigzagged in single file behind a former Slovenian national defence sniper, trying



Some of the Albanian civilians in Kosovo forced to flee their homes because of "ethnic cleansing" by Serb forces

to get a better view of the damage inflicted by the Serbs, but were ordered to get back by the KLA.

The crossroads to the west of Lopusnik has become a busy KLA intersection. Convoys of lorries roared over it continuously, carrying loads of earth and rocks for the frantic road-building schemes of the guerrillas, as they try to make the back tracks that link

the central Drenica and western Decane areas suitable for their commanders' motley array of vehicles.

A dramatic intensification of the war is almost inevitable, given the sheer numbers of KLA foot soldiers, many of them refugees from the burning villages, now infesting the countryside. But despite the deteriorating situation, Ibrahim Rugova and other Kosovo

Albanian leaders pledged to continue negotiations to end ethnic violence in the region after meeting Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, the State Department said in Washington.

The more the KLA is encountered, the more its cosmopolitan roots are uncovered. We met several Slovenes and Croats, and the Serbs have long claimed there are Bosni-

an fighters bolstering the KLA's ranks. The officers do not hide their origins. "My brother works for the Croatian tourist board," one checkpoint commander proudly announced. In what should be his last war, President Milosevic is facing the angry hordes he alienated over the past ten years.

Leading article, page 21

Derided Jospin's first year in office proves a triumph

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

LIONEL JOSPIN will today celebrate his first year as French Prime Minister buoyed by record poll ratings, a growing economy and the implosion of the country's centre-right Opposition.

The Socialist leader, whose election on June 1, 1997, was met with astonishment, derision and scepticism, is the most popular Prime Minister for more than 20 years, according to an opinion poll published last week.

With unemployment falling below the politically significant figure of three million and France qualified for the European economic and monetary union, the biggest clouds on his horizon are the mur-

murings of discontent from his Green and Communist coalition partners. But both his allies and adversaries are cowed by the performance of a man written off as uncharismatic, pedantic and outdated when he took over as head of the Socialist Party in 1995.

"Hats off to him," said Anne-Marie Idrac, general secretary of the opposition Democratic Force party, paying tribute to his PR skills, "which are very good".

Jean-Louis Debré, president of the Gaullist group in the National Assembly, said: "He is very skilful. He has managed to make people believe his majority is united, even though it is divided."

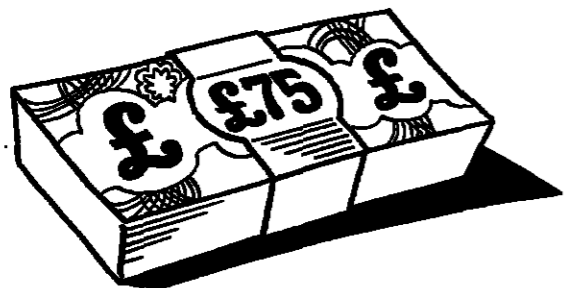
Voters are equally impressed by a Prime Minister who owed his election as much to the failings of the previous centre-right Government as to his own qualities. According to opinion polls, his personal rating, measured by the difference between those satisfied and those dissatisfied with him, stands at 22 per cent.

A majority of French people say he is determined, courageous, open and competent. Where once they described him as grey and boring, now they praise him for being serious and modest.



Jospin: high popularity

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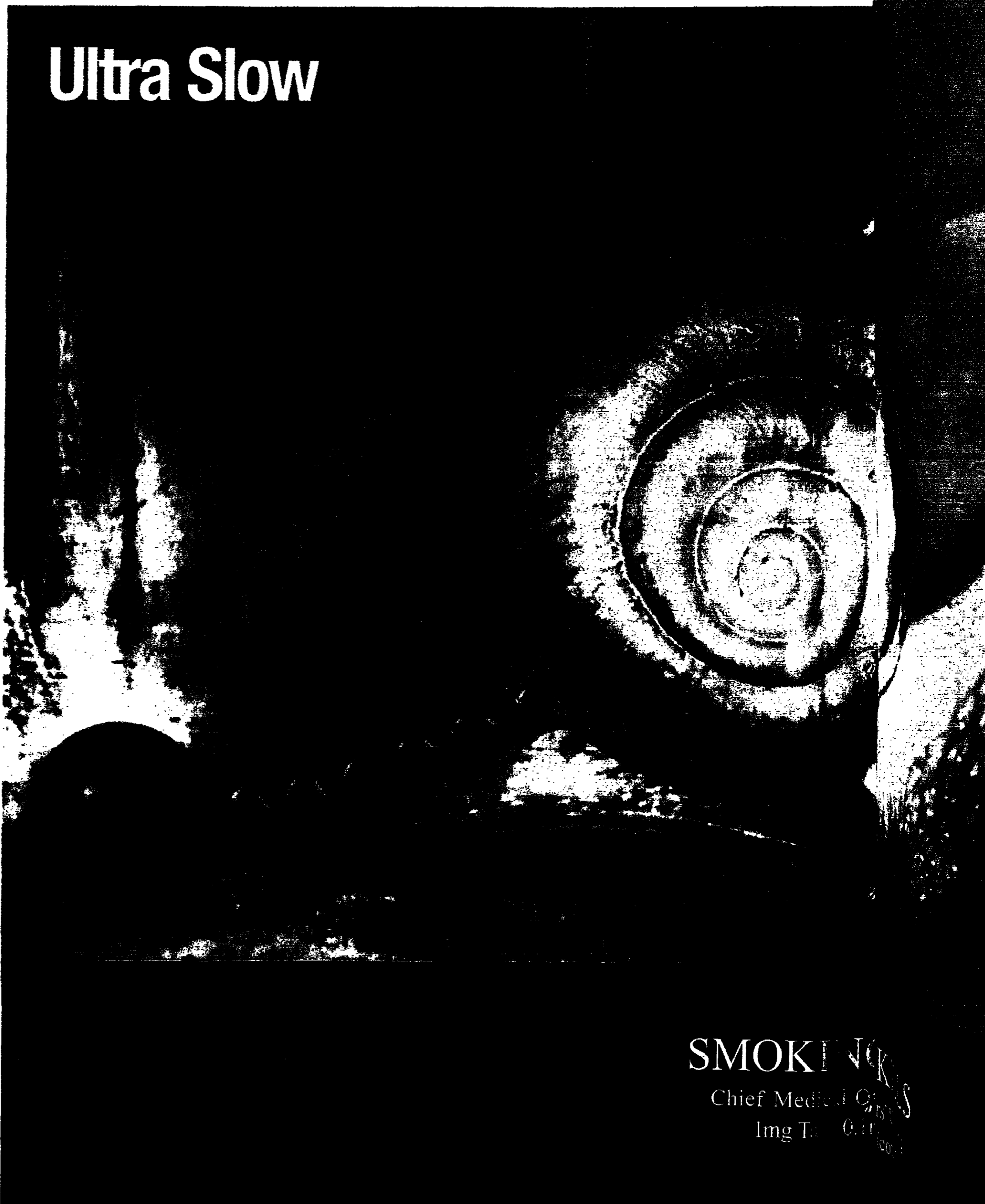


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Hong Kong sees mass protest to mark Tiananmen

FROM CHONG WAI-TONG IN HONG KONG

MORE than 2,000 people marched in Hong Kong yesterday to mark the anniversary of the Tiananmen Square killings for the first time since China took over the former British colony.

"People's power and democracy will prevail," chanted the demonstrators, marching behind a banner depicting the lone man filmed trying to stop a column of advancing tanks in Beijing in June 1989.

The protesters demanded that Beijing release all dissidents and carried placards reading "Vindicate the 1989 pro-democracy movement".

A few carried a coffin inscribed "Down with [Chinese President] Jiang Zemin". They later left it and a petition at the Chinese Foreign Ministry's office in the territory.

The protest march was the first such commemoration on Chinese-controlled territory

since the bloody crackdown nine years ago. "I think this year's rally is more meaningful," a demonstrator said. "In the past the voice came from outside China, but this time it is from within China."

Cheung Mank-wong, of the Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movement in China, agreed. "Hong Kong's support for democracy in China has now become part of the movement," he said.

The demonstrators ended their protest peacefully after handing a petition to Tung Chee-hwa, the Beijing-appointed Chief Executive of Hong Kong, calling on him to support democratic movements on the mainland.

Hong Kong returned to Chinese rule last July. Beijing pledged to let the territory continue its way of life for 50 years after the handover. Han Dongfang, a dissident exiled

from mainland China, said Hong Kong people had to commemorate the incident for the 1.3 billion Chinese on the mainland who could not do it themselves.

On June 4, 1989, Chinese troops suppressed a student-led pro-democracy demonstration centred in Tiananmen Square, Beijing. Hundreds are known to have died, although some dissidents put the death toll in the thousands. Chinese leaders are sensitive to the bloodbath and want it forgotten.

Hong Kong democracy activists have held a protest rally each year on the Sunday before June 4. The only change to this year's protest march was its route.

The commemoration this year will reach its climax on Thursday evening, when a candlelit vigil will be held in Victoria Park. (Reuters)



Demonstrators in Hong Kong yesterday recall the bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, in 1989

Christians keep faith in China's 'secret houses'

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

THE rendezvous to visit an illegal "underground" house church was on a busy west Beijing street. One of the two guides had recently been released from prison for illegal Christian activities.

We turned into a narrow lane alive with bustling people buying food for the evening meal at market stalls.

"We are not being followed," one said. "The security police only bother us these days when there is an important visitor in Beijing." Outside a tiny house that looked like any other, the man said: "Here we are, welcome."

This is how millions of Chinese, Catholic and Protestant, go to church. This time the house church was "born again" evangelical and inside about 40 people were crammed together. A portrait of the American evangelist Billy Graham, an English sign saying "The Lord is My Shepherd" and a text in Chinese are on the wall.

The pastor, Allen Yuan, 83, has served 22 years in labour camps since first being arrested in 1959. Now he sat at a kitchen table with a microphone, but spoke softly to a congregation of engineers, shop assistants and university students. "We must respect the neighbours," he said. "If we are quiet, they do not object and the police can't use the excuse that we are creating a public nuisance."

There are two kinds of churches among practising Protestants and Catholics: legal ones, whose affairs are regulated by the Government's Religious Affairs Bureau, and those whose members worship illegally at home, theoretically free of political interference.

Despite a mild political thaw, with academics close to the Communist Party speaking of a need for more democracy, Catholic and Protestant leaders are regularly jailed. Last year Peter Xu Yongze, the New Birth Church's head, was given ten years for disturbing public order.

There are seven official Protestant churches and four Catholic ones in Beijing, but more than 100 house churches for Protestants alone. Estimates of Christians among China's 1.2 billion population range as high as 9 per cent. Figures suggest about 11 million Protestants and four million Catholics attend official churches. Millions more go to house churches, including about eight million Catholics.

The Pope has appealed to Beijing to legalise the underground Catholic church. The official one, the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, rejects his authority over selection of bishops and other key matters. Its relations with the underground church is often antagonistic. Protestant affairs are regulated by the Communist authorities in the Three-Self Patriotic Movement.

Dozens of pro-Vatican figures remain in prison, but last month the Government released, six months early, one of the more prominent, Bishop Zeng Jingmu, 78, who had been arrested in November 1995 and sentenced without trial to three years of "re-education through labour" for holding unauthorised services. Diplomats say his release, solicited by American officials, seemed timed to assuage US concerns about human rights in China.

Melbourne Archbishop George Pell, the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne, yesterday refused Communion to about 50 homosexual protesters of the Rainbow Sash Movement, who attended Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral despite a ban. (AP)



Yuan: spent 22 years in Chinese labour camps

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Kohl lifts the veil on his Thatcher fixation

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL'S fascination with Margaret Thatcher, one of the great hate-hate relationships of modern politics, shines through a bundle of secret documents about German unity which have just been declassified.

Every confidential communication with Presidents Bush and Mitterrand of the US and France seems to have been punctuated with nervous musings about Mrs Thatcher.

On May 30, 1989, President Bush visited Germany for the first time as head of state. The President asks immediately about the Chancellor's views of Mrs Thatcher. The Chancellor says: "She is energetic, but also very British. She shares the view of the majority of her fellow countrymen that the English Channel is a border and agrees when *The Times* writes: 'Born and Paris

are overseas." The British leader, says Herr Kohl, "wants to hold up the wheel of history, but she will not succeed".

The conversation with President Bush lasts precisely one hour, yet almost all of it — according to the German protocol — is about Mrs Thatcher and her opposition to European unity.

On June 15, 1989, Herr Kohl telephones President Bush to brief him about the visit to Bonn of Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader. "Mrs Gorbachev spoke very warmly about Barbara [Bush] — but she avoided talking about other ladies," says the Chancellor.

The German leader seems, in a jovial way, to be constantly trying to draw President Bush into a tentative conspiracy against Mrs Thatcher. The



Differing voices over united Europe as Herr Kohl and Margaret Thatcher meet in Bonn in 1985. The British Prime Minister, said the German Chancellor, "wants to hold up the wheel of history, but she will not succeed"

subtext is that Mrs Thatcher is a common US-German problem. In a conversation on the evening of December 3, 1989, the Chancellor told the US President that Britain, unlike other European states, was cautious in its assessment of German unification plans.

"That must be the understatement of the year," said President Bush, and one imagines — German protocol notes do not record such off-stage comments — that they

both guffawed. "I have a good relationship with Mrs Thatcher, but there are fundamental differences," the Chancellor tells President Bush. Mrs Thatcher, he says, did not understand Winston Churchill, who in his Zurich speech of 1947 had called for a united Europe. "I have told her that she is living in a pre-Churchillian era."

President Bush asks Herr Kohl whether Britain still has lingering suspicions about

Germany. No, replies the Chancellor, but one has to understand that Britain "won the war and lost much else". But Mrs Thatcher puzzled him: "In her position I would want to bind Germany more closely to Europe." Even sharper tones emerge from the Chancellor's correspondence with President Mitterrand.

The Bush correspondence was published yesterday by *Welt am Sonntag*. It is unusual for the German Govern-

ment to lift the 30-year confidentiality rules on secret documents.

The timing is significant: Herr Kohl, fighting for his political survival in what may be his last election campaign this September, wants to present himself as an international statesman who won unity for the Germans. All gladiators need enemies: Mrs Thatcher, judging by these documents, fills the role perfectly.

Tribalism gives spin a bad press

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

Sir Christopher Meyer, Our Man in Washington after a brief pit stop in Bonn, once drafted a Harvard paper on how governments should deal with the media.

It was full of robust common sense — informed, of course, by his personal experience as the godfather of British spin — and should be distributed to the new generation of Whitehall flack-catchers. A critical Meyer maxim is that press spokesmen must have swift and easy access to the boss, otherwise authority melts like ice cream at noon.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, has been in power for almost 16 years and has enjoyed a good press for 12 of them because of an intuitive understanding of the Meyer principle. Even when it was impossible to have the government spokesmen at his flank, he gave them the freedom to gather information.

Dieter Vogel virtually functioned as an investigative journalist in his pursuit of honest information to dish up to the press. Peter Hausmann, Dr Vogel's successor, was a gentle Bavarian who found himself excluded from the Chancellor's kitchen Cabinet.

The result was plain to see at the last European summit. Herr Hausmann was able only to tell German journalists that the leaders were still at lunch. The Germans, furious after a long, fruitless wait, deserted him for the British briefing.

Now he has been blamed for the underselling of the euro and he has been sent into early retirement. But nobody has explained why Herr Hausmann was excluded from the information loop in the first place.

The answer to this puzzle touches on a fundamental crack in the Government, a faultline that runs along regional lines. Herr Hausmann is a member of the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU), which is married to Herr Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU). This relationship only comes under stress when the CSU has a politician of overriding national ambition, when the Bavarians want more seats in the Bonn Cabinet or when there

are Bavarian elections. On September 13, there are Bavarian regional polls and the CSU is nervous about losing votes on the Right. Two weeks later there is a general election and Herr Kohl looks shaky. Ergo, the CSU has to distance itself from the Chancellor. Herr Kohl did not want a CSU man selling his policies.

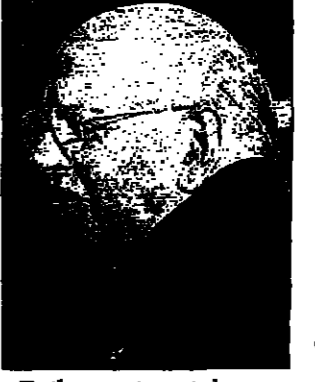
The CSU and the CDU are now moving in different orbits. The contrast can best be seen in southern Germany. The CDU heartland of Baden-Württemberg — where Swabians welcome the euro — could not be further apart politically from the neighbouring eurosceptic Bavarians.

In Bavaria the CSU is anti-European Commission. In Baden-Württemberg, there is a commitment to a new European Union and Nato built on Kohl's lines.

The Chancellor has seen CDU support shrivel in the east, has little hope for the Protestant north: if his party is to revive, the energy has to come from the Black Forest and the Swabians. That means pushing Swabians on to centre stage and pushing Bavarians out. Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister and a Bavarian, is out of favour. Wolfgang Schäuble, a Swabian, is at the core of the Chancellor's re-election campaign.

Peter Hausmann is out as spokesman; in comes Otto Hauser from Baden-Württemberg. Ancient rivalries between the Princes of Baden and the Bavarian monarchs are thus bubbling to the surface. The Kohl Government, supposedly committed to propelling Germany into the 21st century, is captive to atavistic and tribal enmities.

Botha faces costly day in court



Botha: contempt charge

George P. W. Botha, the former South African President, returns today to the small-town court where he is charged with contempt. He faces a fine of up to £2,380 if convicted.

Mr Botha, 82, rejected a subpoena to appear before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission three times last year, calling it a circus. The commission wants to question him on security force actions against anti-apartheid activists, and the regime's com-

mand structures. He has offered to communicate in writing, but the commission wants him to answer questions arising from evidence by former security personnel. (Reuters)

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TV cartoon brat makes century's 'top twenty'

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

BART SIMPSON, the unlovely cartoon character who has served as a metaphor for America's *fin de siècle* brats, is one of this century's 20 greatest entertainers and artists, according to a list published today by *Time* magazine.

The list, part of a project to enumerate the 100 most influential people of the 20th century, also includes less whimsical choices, such as Louis Armstrong, The Beatles (who count as one), Coco Chanel, Charlie Chaplin, Le Corbusier, Bob Dylan, T.S. Eliot, James Joyce, Pablo Picasso, Frank Sinatra and Steven Spielberg.

According to the magazine, Bart has been elected to this hall of fame because he is both "deplorable and adorable". The spike-haired layabout is described as "a complex weave of grace, attitude and personality", a very "Nineties slacker who embodies a century of popular culture and is one of the richest characters in it".

The others who make up the list, markedly America-biased, are Lucille Ball, Marlon Brando, Aretha Franklin, Martha Graham, the "Muppetmaster" Jim Henson, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Igor Stravinsky and talk-show hostess Oprah Winfrey.

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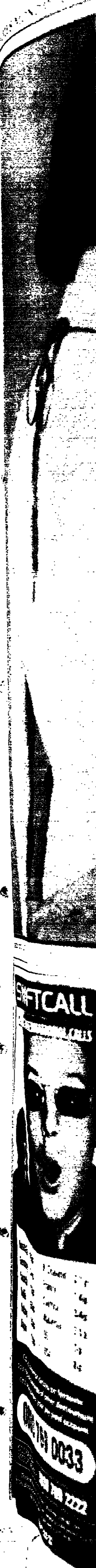
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INSIDE GERMANY
BY ROGER BOYES

are Bavarian elections. On September 13, there are Bavarian regional polls and losing votes on the right. Two weeks later there is a general election and here Kohl looks shaky. Even the CDU has to distance itself from the Chancellor. Here Kohl did not want a CDU man selling his policies. The CDU and the SPD are now moving in different orbits. The contrast can be seen in Bavaria. The CDU has a lead in Baden-Württemberg — where Swabians voted the euro — could not be further apart politically from the neighbouring euro-region Bavaria. In Bavaria the CDU is a strong force. In Baden-Württemberg there is a commission to a new Minister of State and Nato has a role to play.

The Chancellor is... CDU... Bavaria... Baden-Württemberg... euro... CDU... Baden-Württemberg... CDU... Baden-Württemberg... CDU... Baden-Württemberg...

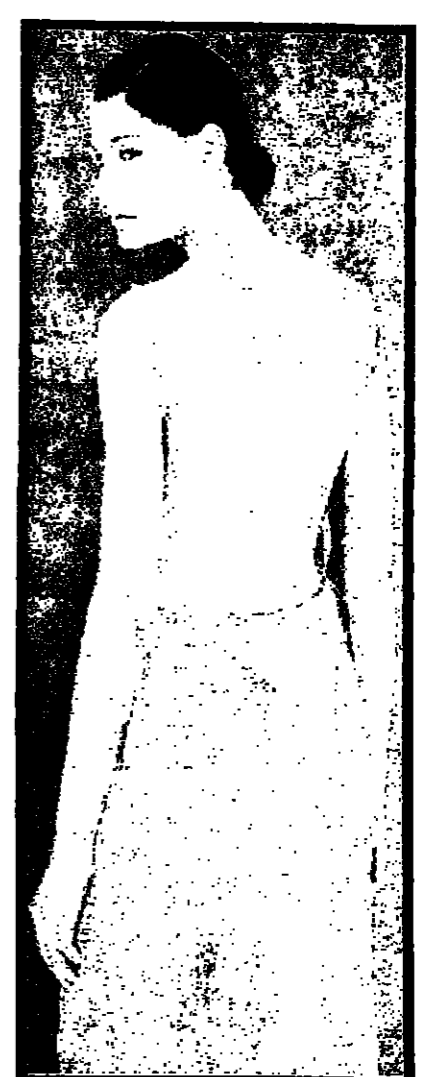


Drape-back dress, £300, by Ghost, 36 Ledbury Road, London W11 (0181-960 3121); earring, £66, by Erickson Beamon (0171-259 0202)

**Backs
and the
bare
essentials**



Dress, £396, by Brach & Brach (01273 205470), from Malapa, 41 Clerkenwell Rd, EC1; shoes, £185, by Gina, as before



LEFT: Halterneck dress, £34.50, by La Redoute (0500-777 888); necklace, £680, by Robinson Peilham (0171-828 3564); stilettos, £185, by Gina (0171-235 2932)
MIDDLE: Paisley dress, £271, by Gharani Strok, from Koh Samui, 65 Monmouth Street, WC2 (0171-240 4280); necklace, £108, by Slim Barrett (0171-354 9393)
RIGHT: Neon-pink backless apron dress, £312, by Clements Ribeiro (0171-409 7719)

Photographer: James Garwat
Stylist: Deborah Brett
Hair: Raphael Salley at Michaeljohn Management
Make-up: Jochen Fuchs at Michaeljohn Management
Model: Irmira at Select

TranSport Nicky Clarke.



PHOTOGRAPHED BY TONY MAREE

Exercise, exfoliate and expose it to sun before you reveal the season's favourite erogenous zone, says Style Editor Grace Bradberry

Clothes with holes are the height of sophistication. If there is something lacking, an essential bit missing, it's not only chic, it may even be conceptual.

This season we have had the missing-waist dress (essentially a sheath with strange folds and wrapping in the middle), the slashed top (Daryl K), and the cutout sweater (John Bartlett's red, ribbed jumper with a big inverted V chopped out above the waist).

Then there is the backless dress, which is not necessarily weird and intellectual. It can be — Ann Demeulemeester and Clements Ribeiro have both created backless pieces with a touch of the avant-garde about them. But often it's just simple, elegant and rather High Society.

In certain hands, notably those of John Galiano, it is plain decadent, drooping low at the base of the back and rolling into a cowl hem. In others, it's a hippy luxe thing: think Paloma Picasso hanging out at Yves Saint Laurent's Moroccan retreat.

Whatever, the back is fashion's favourite erogenous zone this summer, from the elegant draped dresses of Pearce Fionda and Balenciaga to the more daring apron-fronted designs of the British designers Ghost and Clements Ribeiro, which threaten to reveal the front as well as the back.

What this summer's backless frocks have in common is an understated sexuality. They are often below the knee, and draped rather than tight and low-cut. It is only when the wearer turns her back that the tease comes in, and a modest dress becomes an altogether different proposition.

One of the most beautiful designs is by Gharani Strok, the young design duo of Nargess Gharani, 27, and Vanja Strok, 28, both of whom trained at Epsom School of Art and Design. They set up their business in 1995 and are now stocked by London fashion boutiques such as Pellicano and Koh Samui as well as Barneys, the eminent New York department store. They specialise in simple shapes made in beautiful fabrics.

Strok, a Croatian, explains that she and the Iranian-born Gharani did not begin the current collection with a backless theme in mind. "We were playing with the slash hem and that's just how it fell. We used the Paisley party because there are so many flowers around and it's a bit different, but also because it can lift pale complexions."

Another British design duo who have gone big on backless is Brach & Brach — Teresa Brach and Craig Allison-Higgins. Like Gharani Strok, their roots are anything but English. Brach was born in Austria and Allison-Higgins is Scottish.

Whatever these origins might suggest, Brach & Brach's designs are vivid, Mediterranean and ultra-feminine. Butterfly sleeves, one of the better features of Seventies design, make this dress lazy, decadent and very girly.

No matter what the mood of the dress, the physical demands are the same. No back should be exposed until it has been exercised, scrubbed, exfoliated, moisturised and fakened. OK, it's a fag, but the glamorous end-effect is well worth it — and it's a damn sight easier to achieve than a washboard stomach.

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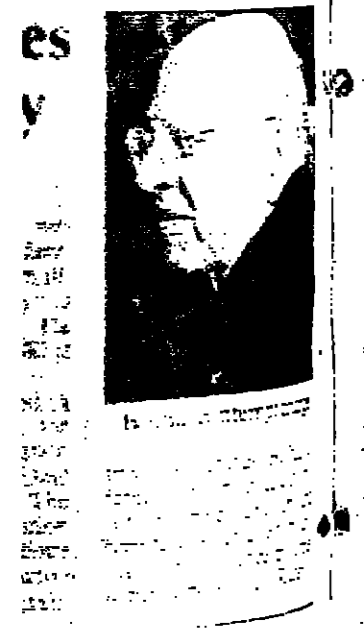
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Future?

PHOTOGRAPHED BY TONY MAREE



Sunderland v Charlton and men and women united: when a team wins, its supporters experience a surge of testosterone; when it loses, levels of the hormone drop

Of fans and football fever

A week ago today at Wembley, the Charlton Athletic and Sunderland football teams gave the performances of a lifetime. Their battle to enter the Premiership could not have been more nail-biting — the possibility of victory lurched between teams as goals and equalisers were scored in quick succession. "One minute you were over the moon, the next you were totally down," recalls a Charlton fan. "It was the most emotionally draining match I've ever seen." The 4-4 draw was finally settled in

Sporting events have a physical effect not only on the athletes taking part, but also on their supporters. **Anjana Ahuja reports**

Charlton's favour by a penalty shoot-out. Supporters' reactions ranged from numbed elation to tearful despair. For those left bemused at the fuss over that game or for anyone not gripped by World Cup fever, it can be hard to understand the fervour of the sports fan. However, it is a genuine, scientific phenomenon — researchers at the University of Utah have found that the outcome of a game can

have a physical effect on a loyal spectator. When a team wins, its supporters experience a surge of testosterone, the male hormone. When it loses, testosterone levels drop. Past research has focused on sportsmen themselves; when tennis stars, wrestlers and even chess players triumph, their testosterone levels shoot up. However, Paul Bernhardt, an educational psychology student who led the study, fol-

lowed up a suggestion by Theodore Kemper, a sociology professor at St John's University in New York, that fans would show the same physiological changes as athletes. Bernhardt says it is the first time that similar information has been gathered on fans. It will be published in the journal *Physiology and Behaviour* later this year. Bernhardt and colleagues first looked at male spectators

attending a basketball game between two traditional university rivals, the University of Georgia and the Georgia Institute of Technology. Saliva samples were taken from both sets of fans before and after the games. The former team won just before the final whistle. The testosterone levels of the winning team's fans rose by a fifth, even though the hormone generally declines during the day; the levels of those loyal to the losers had dropped within 15 minutes.

The final study focused on a televised World Cup football match between Italy and Brazil. The researchers visited two bars, one full of Brazilian supporters, the other full of Italian fans. A dozen of the former, either Brazilian or of Brazilian descent, were recruited; 14 of the latter were Italian or of Italian descent.

Again, saliva samples were collected before and after the game. A draw of 0-0 after extra time was resolved when Brazil won a penalty shoot-out. Brazil fans' testosterone levels rose by about a fifth, while the Italians' levels plummeted. It has always been known that fans indulge in a psychological process known as basking in reflected glory, which means that their own notion of self-esteem is linked to their teams doing well. "People associate themselves psychologically with teams, and even use their allegiance to define themselves," Bernhardt says.

A surge in optimism and pride follows a victory. Even fans' language gives them away. They often say: "We won." But Bernhardt's experiment shows that the result of a game not only puts fans in a good mood and raises their self-esteem but also changes their physiology. "The fans didn't shoot the balls or run the court, but they experienced the same rise in testosterone as the athletes," he says.

"I think this confirms a lot of people's notions that serious sports fans really do seem to be affected by their teams. This is not just happening in the mind, it's happening in the whole person." The finding also supports the idea that testosterone is crucial in maintaining a hierarchy. For example, levels of the hormone, which is associated with sexual behaviour and dominant behaviour such as aggression, will determine the winner in fights among rhesus monkeys. Animals with higher levels of the hormone usually win: the success then prompts a testosterone surge in the victor and a corresponding drop in the loser. That makes the winner more likely to triumph in further encounters — this serves to remind the loser of his inferior status and preserve the social order. Even the results of human contests, such as tennis matches or wrestling bouts, can be fairly reliably predicted by finding out who has the highest hormone count. But since most of us do not need to fight physically for territory and status, following a sports team may fulfil the urge to arrange ourselves in a hierarchy. We define ourselves not through our own sporting prowess, but through the abilities of those we follow. Bernhardt would like to see whether women fans experience the same physiological effect: they have small amounts of testosterone circulating in their system. Another mystery is how much involvement with a particular team is necessary before the results of its games induce hormone changes. And how do individual changes influence group behaviour — are these hormones responsible for mood swings in the crowd? Still, the findings so far will help to foster a deeper understanding between those who have scheduled their summer around the World Cup and those who have not. And, as the summer drags on, those of us tempted to say "It's only a game" will think better of it.

Is it down to Earth, Al?

SCIENTISTS are giving a cool reception to a plan by Al Gore, the American Vice-President, to spend \$50 million (£30 million) on a satellite to beam back images of Earth 24 hours a day. Gore, an ardent environmentalist, wants to recreate the effect of a famous image of Earth taken by the Apollo 17 spacecraft in 1972. This picture, he says, "moved thousands of Americans and inspired them to become stakeholders in our planet's wellbeing".

Today's satellites take much better pictures, but none of them shows all of Earth. The Vice-President's inspiration is to build a small satellite, dubbed "Goresat" by its critics, fit it with an 8m telescope, launch it from the space shuttle and park it in space at the point where the gravity of Earth and the Moon balance. From there it would send back an image of Earth, accessible on the Internet.

"We can already see pictures like that from weather satellites," says John Pike, of the Federation of American Scientists. "They're pretty boring. It's like watching the grass grow."

Pat Dasch, the executive director of the US National Space Society, says the money would be better spent elsewhere: "The scientific value of this proposal is very limited."

Gore already has a name for the satellite — Triana, after Rodrigo de Triana, the lookout who spotted the New World on Columbus's voyage in 1492. The US space agency, Nasa, was given the task of designing, building, launching — and justifying — Triana.

Nasa sent out a request to universities and schools, asking them to submit sensible suggestions for the satellite's use. The deadline for replies passed last month, and Nasa says "several dozen" proposals have been made. It will not say what they are until Dan Goldin, Nasa's administrator, has been briefed.

Triana could be built and launched within two years, says Ghassen Asrar, the head of Nasa's Earth Science programme. The images, of the same quality as a high-definition TV picture, would be updated every few minutes. Meteorologists doubt that the pictures would be much help to them, while Republicans

wonder how Triana has escaped normal scientific peer review.

Introducing Triana, Gore said: "As Socrates said 2,500 years ago: 'Man must rise above the Earth to the top of the atmosphere and beyond, for only thus will he understand the Earth in which he lives.'" "It

will allow people around the globe to gaze at our planet as it travels in orbit around the Sun. It will awaken a new generation to the environment and educate millions of children."

John Pike is unimpressed: "Can't his staff find other things for him to do?"

Nasa may yet be saved from embarrassment if somebody comes up with a way of extracting worthwhile science out of Triana. One possibility is to fit another camera that would point not at Earth, but at the Sun, which might provide advance warning of solar storms, which can affect communications on Earth.



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

Sea slugs' sex appeal secret

THE sea slug, a hermaphroditic and short-lived mollusc that lives arid forest of kelp and feeds on algae, does not have an enviable life. But everything changes in the summer, when the creatures gather at mating sites, called brothels, to exchange sperm.

Dr Sherry Painter, of the University of Texas at Galveston, has discovered what draws them — a pheromone she calls attractin, the first example so far found of a waterborne sex attractant in invertebrates.

Sea slugs grow to about 12 inches long, and possess

both male and female reproductive organs. As males, they transfer sperm to a partner acting as a female, which mixes it with eggs and packages it into long strings, which are released into the water. It was in these strings, or cordons, that Dr Painter isolated attractin.

She reports in *Biological Bulletin* that the compound is produced by the gland that packages the eggs. In experiments it proved irresistible to sea slugs and also attracted a freshwater snail, *Limnaea*. This raises the possibility of using attractin, or an equivalent, to control the reproductive cycles of clams and oysters.

It ain't heavy, it's a proton

PHYSICISTS have trapped a proton and an antiproton and proved that they have the same mass, down to the tenth decimal place. The precision is a *tour de force* in physical measurement.

Every particle has its own antiparticle, identical in everything but electric charge. To prove it, two Harvard University physicists, Dr Gerald Gabrielse and Dr Anton Khabibzadeh, in collaboration with the University of Bonn and elsewhere, trapped a single antiproton from an accelerator at the European Particle

Physics laboratory in Geneva in a "jar" made from electric and magnetic fields. Then they added a negative hydrogen ion — a proton with two electrons around it — to the same trap.

They measured, using electrodes, how fast the two raced around the trap. If one were heavier, it would move more slowly. But once allowance had been made for the tiny mass of the electrons, they found that the two were racing in identical circles, 90 million times per second. The conclusion was that they weighed the same, a finding that seems to rule out physical theories that posit a difference in mass.

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Handwritten signature: *John Doe*

Love and the younger man

Women are increasingly defying convention and choosing a youthful partner, says Jane Gordon

The moment of truth came in the middle of a dinner I had organised, a little over a year ago, in order to research a new book. One of the dozen women in their thirties gathered round my table was telling of a brief relationship she had enjoyed with a younger man who was her subordinate at work. It was clear from her tone that the affair had been about more than sex. Why, then, I asked, had she ended it?

"Because it had no future," she said, revealing a prejudice that I was to discover was reflected throughout society — that a woman could never seriously be involved with a younger man. What she didn't realise was that two of the women present were happily married to men six or seven years younger than themselves. Nor was she aware of the statistics indicating that an increasing number of women will embark on relationships with men five to ten years their junior.

In an age when women make up more than 50 per cent of the workforce, and in which more young women are putting off settling down, we are seeing the evolution of a new norm in male-female relationships — women becoming seriously involved with younger men.

There are now half a million more males than females aged under 30, a figure that is increasing every year. There has always been more boy than girl babies but, historically, a balance was maintained by the higher rate of male infant mortality and the num-

'He made me more confident in myself as a woman'

ber of young men lost in wars. Dorothy Rowe, a psychologist and writer, says that whenever there is an imbalance in a population people adapt their behaviour — for example, after the Second World War women got married quickly and the resulting baby boom made up for the slump in the birthrate during the years of conflict. Even so, the older man persists as the imagined ideal. Not older as in decrepit, but perhaps two or three years' senior to his partner.

It is not surprising that women have such a prejudice about younger men. There are hundreds of cultural references to older men moulding younger women, but I could find no instances of the kind of role reversal that I wanted to explore in the contemporary *Pygmalion* I planned to write. The only well-known examples come in tragic tales, such as Collette's *Cherie*. And the Eighties image of the post-menopausal woman on an HRT-induced high with a toyboy has done little to reduce the social stigma that surrounds such relationships.

When Carole Malone, then 32, met her future husband, Nick, then 26, she was adamant she would never have an affair with a younger man. "Even when I accepted that I found him attractive I never thought we had a future. He had none of the things I thought I wanted: power, success, influence. I wanted to be protected, not the protector. I also had to overcome my friends' prejudices. They seemed to think the only thing we had in common was sex."



Role models for a new generation: the actress Emma Thompson, 39, became involved with Greg Wise — seven years her junior — during the making of *Sense and Sensibility*

Gradually her view changed. "He had a feminist mother, and liked and admired strong women. He didn't play games in the way that other men did. He made me more confident as a woman, he never made me jealous and, best of all, he was neither married nor divorced. "He had none of the emotional baggage that I had come to expect in older men. Within a few months, I realised that he was, for me, the perfect man."

Jill Elliott, a 34-year-old solicitor involved with a man of 27, says: "For the first year of our affair I kept quiet about the age difference. I was slightly embarrassed. But a few weeks ago, when we were at a dinner party where all the other couples were the reverse of us, it suddenly struck me how lucky I was. I looked at all my female friends with their older men and they were so dull, so set in their ways and so difficult. Several of my friends said they envied my relationship with Joe.

"The truth is that although men tend to mature later than women — which has always been the justification for marrying a man two or three years your senior — they also grow older more rapidly than women. I think that all these

Bridget Joneses who are searching for their elusive Mr Rights are looking in the wrong place. The world is full of younger men."

The emergence of role models will no doubt help other men and women to accept what will be the new pattern. Emma Thompson became involved with the actor Greg Wise — seven years her junior — during the making of the film *Sense and Sensibility*, and the Princess Royal is enjoying a successful second marriage to Tim Laurence, four years her junior. Also adding weight to this sociological trend are the relationships of Barbara Amiel, Mo Mowlam, Barbara Follett and Melanie Griffiths.

"Previous generations of women were forced to look on men to lead and teach them, and they chose men who were older to give them the status they could not achieve for themselves," says Dorothy Rowe. "But contemporary women do not face such limitations. Many of them are in a position to teach and lead their men and discover the different, more subtle pleasures that such a relationship can bring."

My Fair Man, Jane Gordon's contemporary *Pygmalion*, is published today by HarperCollins, £5.99.

Eton isn't for everybody

Sending all one's children to the same school is the lazy, unthinking and boring English way. I've done it myself — for the very worst of reasons — and I realise now it was probably an unimaginative decision.

According to a report yesterday, Prince Harry (if he passes Common Entrance) will follow his elder brother William to Eton after all, despite the obvious differences in their personalities. It's the conventional way of their class: the "all the boys in our family have always gone to Charterhouse" way.

"Parental choice" is a fraught and bothersome business. How do you know if your child is a scholar or an athlete or a thespian? How do you know the school will not change overnight? A school can alter dramatically with the departure of one charismatic teacher.

My own parents hardly gave schools a thought. There was only one grammar school in our northern home town. When we moved to London, we merely had to turn up at the appointed school: Kingsbury wasn't the nearest, but it was the best. Or at least, it was for me. But was it ideal for my sister, who was only one year behind? Parents like their children to have the same teachers, uniform and so on, but nothing enrages a child more than

Valerie Grove on the perils of siblings sharing a school

being compared with the elder sibling and expected to be a replica. Being placed in the shadow of an older sibling is one of the acknowledged reasons for second-child rebellion. Tradition dictates that while fine, upstanding Sibling Major thrives under the iron discipline of a public school (because eldest is conformist, and aim to please), Sibling Minor kicks over the traces (and gets sent off to the colonies), while gentle, artistic Sibling Minimus would probably have been better suited to somewhere relaxed such as Darrington or Millfield.

When my three girls transferred from their local primary to the same secondary school, I confess that I based my choice on two (as it turned out, wrong-headed) principles: one, it was near to my office in Fleet Street, so I could fetch them at 3.10pm, and two, it still offered Latin. But within two years Fleet Street had moved, and as for the high-minded Latin principle, only one of my children has opted for Latin A level. Even with the same

upbringing, no two children are alike. Unless they think about it before entering children into schools, parents may discover too late that one child might have fared better elsewhere.

The royals decided to send the Prince of Wales to his father's old school, Gordonstoun (where he was so unhappy), partly to put a distance between him and the reptiles: Eton was convenient for Windsor but much nearer to Fleet Street, too. To its credit, Eton has proved protective of William, and can probably be depended on to do the same for Harry. For Charles's decision to be justified, the school must also give Harry free rein to develop in his own way.

And does school matter anyway? Boardrooms are full of millionaire businessmen who left school without distinction and prospered: Branson and Gerry Robinson are good examples.

In the end, it's the individual who sinks or swims, sometimes because of the school, but just as often in spite of it. Ultimately, when the Princes emerge, we must hope their own personalities will shape their lives — just as their mother's did, despite her scholastic record. And fetch up not "Etonians" by definition, but as shy nice William and cute naughty Harry.

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Down to earth, Al?

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Introducing Triana

Introducing Triana. Gassner said: "As soon as we can, we will launch the satellite. It will be built and launched within two years, says Gassner. After the satellite programme, the high-resolution TV camera would be updated every few minutes. Meteorologists would be much more likely to use the images, says Gassner.

Appeal secret

There are now half a million more males than females aged under 30, a figure that is increasing every year. There has always been more boy than girl babies but, historically, a balance was maintained by the higher rate of male infant mortality and the num-

It's a proton

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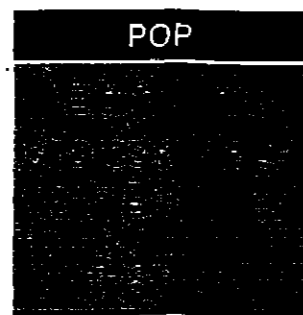
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THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE
Anastasia Hillé launches the Globe season
FRONT PAGE



Romance w
classic mo

Whither the BBC? Or with-
er the BBC? These are
questions which obsess
broadcasters in this country from
time to time. The BBC's cultural
impact, its record as a talent house
over 75 years and its overall
achievements are not in question.
As usual this year the BBC
dominated the Bafta Awards, and
though they seem to some cynics to
be bespoke for the BBC (and I
remember the unrest about them
at LWT in the days of John Birt
and Christopher Bland), they won
with good programmes.

The BBC dominates broadcast-
ing in this country. No one else
comes anywhere near it. It receives
public money willy-nilly from all
of us through the licence fee.
Sometimes this is questioned. Re-
cently, Geoff Mulgan wrote: "The
licence fee is probably the most
regressive tax in Britain today...
it has no democratic component."
And yet very few of us object to
it, especially since its disgraceful
draconian aspect — 700 single
mothers sent to prison one year for

Corporate dangers for our corporation

non-payment — has been re-
moved. Many of us are prepared
to pay more, indeed, 70 per cent of
viewers say they would pay treble
the current licence fee.

The criticisms persist, however,
and it is in the BBC's best interest
to take them on. Some are hard to
evaluate. It is widely held inside
the BBC, by programme-makers
generally, that the place is over-
loaded with management and
accountancy structures which
wring dry the udders of the talent,
the producers. Yet the counter
argument, that the BBC pre-John
Birt was seriously undermanaged,
and that its present expanded
ambitions need late 20th-century
management help, is a case which
can also be argued. There is
always general criticism, inevit-
able with an institution as intrusive
in our lives.

But an attack of a more compre-

hensive, well-researched and chal-
lenging nature has just been
aimed at the BBC, and by someone
who could well be a contender for
the post of director-general after
Birt's retirement.

David Elstein is the man with
the gauntlet. He delivered the
Goodman Lecture a fortnight ago,
a fierce *tour d'horizon* which drew
on a career and a knowledge of the
broadcasting industry unique in
this country. Still in his early
fifties, Elstein in his time has been
a brilliant programme-maker in-
side the BBC and ITV; a leading
independent outside both systems;
a chief executive in ITV and Sky;
and now chief executive of Chan-
nel 5. He makes his position, with
which I agree, clear at the outset of
his lecture. "I strongly support the
idea of a BBC as a public service
broadcaster. I wish to see neither
the BBC privatised nor public



MELVYN BRACE
service broadcasting abolished."
Then he lets rip. He attacks the
BBC's present structure and fund-
ing in terms which demand a
reply. Then he offers a version of
the BBC "better suited to the future

of broadcasting in a liberal democ-
racy". This, effectively, argues the
case for subscription.

The BBC, claims Elstein, was
weaned for 40 years on monopoly.
Ever since it has felt entitled to pre-
eminence at whatever cost to its
original charter. "If pop pirate
radio cannot be suppressed, the
BBC will supply it competitively. If
there is a third TV channel
available, it must be allocated to
the BBC... if there are three
national 24-hour television news
services available on cable, the
BBC will deliver a fourth... if
there is to be a digital terrestrial
TV, the BBC must have the best
multiplex... if pay television is a
success, the BBC must move into
it..."

The underlying justification for
all this, in Elstein's words, is that:
"Whatever the BBC chooses to do
it is motivated entirely by public

interest and should prevail where-
ever there is a clash with private
interest." The latest example,
many, is that of the BBC outbid-
ding ITV for the National Lottery.
"even if it was then obliged to
broadcast a programme to pro-
mote a commercial product in a
way the ITC would not permit on
ITV..."

One thrust of Elstein's argument
is that the BBC's ambitions have
meant a constant redefining of
public service broadcasting which
in fact edges further and further
away from the original remit. The
evidence Elstein piles up chal-
lenges the BBC's right to claim
uniqueness. Channel 4 is just as
obviously non-profitmaking in its
motivation as the BBC, he points
out: the BBC has been shown in
annual surveys to be more biased
than ITV, Channel 4 or Sky; impar-
tiality, he claims, has been

badly denied by the BBC's presen-
tation of its own case on its own
channels in any argument about
broadcasting; the BBC's duty to
afford universal coverage slipped
away last year when it sold its
transmission business. Therefore,
Elstein concludes, "if universality,
impartiality, non-profitmaking
and public service content are not
unique characteristics of the BBC
as a broadcaster, what else is there
left to define its public service
mission?"

He does not stop there. The
BBC, he suggests, is "a determined
management pursuing corporate
objectives in the name of public
interest".

This is a severe charge. It
describes an institution way off its
original message pursuing a
course which could damage its
core purpose — which is to be the
cornerstone and a benchmark in
this country of a wide range of
quality programmes. Neither Birt
nor Bland would want it as their
epitaph, and it cries out for
refutation.

Treasures of a golden girl

GALLERIES: A pre-Christian hoard from southern Italy is on show in London. John Russell Taylor reports

Hera is one of the less celebrated Ancient Greek goddesses. Most people who have even heard of her under this name, rather than the more familiar Juno, retain a vague notion that she was primarily protective, of women, of animals, of seafarers. She had other sides to her, of course: a model wife and mother, she could also be very vengeful when her jealousy was aroused, which with Zeus for a husband happened quite frequently. As with any god, it was a good thing to keep on the right side of her.

So, at least, thought the

worshippers at the Heraion Lacinio in Calabria. Excavations there in 1987 brought to light endless votive offerings dating from between 700 and 500 BC, not to mention fragments of the temple and, most famous of all, the golden diadem shaped like a head-band.

Some 150 objects from this hoard are now on show for the first time in this country in *The Treasures of Hera* ("Magna Graecia Antiquities Discovered in Southern Italy"), an exhibition at the Accademia Italiana in association with the Soprintendenza Archeologica della Calabria.

The site of the discovery is remote, tucked away at the far end of the Capo Colonna jutting out from the eastern coast of Calabria. The area, in the vicinity of the ancient city of Croton (modern Crotona), has had strong mythological associations throughout recorded history. According to one legend the mourning of the local women for the death of Achilles was so remarkable that Thetys, mother of Achilles, gave Hera a garden which she set aside for their use, and the major shrine to Hera was founded on the spot.

Certainly the locals of the Lacinian peninsula seem to



Hera's head-dress: the 6th-century BC golden diadem found in the shrine of the Ancient Greek goddess in Calabria

have felt a particular possessiveness towards Hera. All the evidence suggests that the shrine was eventually very lavish, being gradually elaborated, enlarged and enriched throughout nearly seven centuries BC, though by 173 BC, when its marble roof was pillaged for building materi-

als, it must already have lost some of its prestige. More stone was removed in the 16th century to build a fortification near by, and again around 1900 to build new jetties. An earthquake, in 1638 left only one pillar standing, to become a famous wonder for takers of the Grand Tour.

In the circumstances, it is amazing that so much material remained in situ, especially something as fragile and precious as the diadem presumed to have adorned the principal statue of Hera in the temple. This extraordinary object is made of the most delicately beaten gold, adorned with

leaves and berries which flutter slightly with every breeze. This was found virtually intact, protected by loose earth, and internal evidence suggests that it also was subject to gradual elaboration, its initial simplicity obscured by the later addition of exuberant plant forms. Though purists

may claim that it was not improved in the process, it is a breathtaking survival.

Most of the votive objects, which at first glance one might take for lead but prove to be cast bronze, are small and modest, on a personal, almost domestic scale. Some of them are routine in design, but there are also unusual things such as the model boat, thought to be of Sardinian workmanship, and the Winged Gorgon of unique design, in which the creature is cheekily sticking out its tongue. There is a lot of quirky invention in these figures and objects, much of it unprecedented in known work of the period from elsewhere.

Perhaps the most moving object in the whole show is the one marble sculpture, an almost lifelike head, presumably of the goddess. The face is heavily abraded, and yet the eyes, which have lost their original bronze covering, are still poignantly indicated in fine bronze outline. Even in its ruinous state this sculpture speaks across the centuries.

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Duelling pianos

POP
Elton John and Billy Joel
Stoke Park, Durham

To see one piano-playing pop legend in the flesh is always an enticing prospect; to see two seems a rare treat indeed. Both Billy Joel and Elton John have written some of the most poignant and finely crafted songs of the past 30 years, and between them have sold more than 200 million records. Alas, the twin burdens of expectation and reputation proved a little too heavy on the night.

That was for a number of reasons, most of which stem from the drawbacks of open-air stadium pop concerts in general. The theory is that the larger the venue, the greater the event. In practice, you end up sitting in Row J, Section 703 of the Upper Tier of the New Stand, approximately 3,000 light years from the stage, on which Billy Joel and Elton John are but dots sitting at slightly larger dots, while a cold biting wind cuts right through you.

Thank God then for the video screens which allow you to get some sense of who's who and what's going on. The show is billed as *The Piano Men - Face to Face* and sure enough John and Joel trade ebony and ivory for a few numbers at the start and for a longer period at the end after they have both finished separate sets of their greatest hits. There are no prizes for guessing which of the two wore the luminous lime green suit and dangling earrings.

Joel is up first and leads his

band through the highlights of his songbook including *My Life*, *Allentown* and *Movin' Out*, and though he is not nearly as flamboyant a showman as his glitzy counterpart he still manages to throw in a neat Marlon Brando impression. And it is from Joel's piano that we hear the original version of *Candle in the Wind*, its author apparently having promised never to play it again.

John returns the compliment by covering Joel's *Up-town Girl* near the end of a set that ranged from the sublime (*Goodbye Yellowbrick Road*, *Daniel*, *I Guess That's Why They Call It The Blues*) to the not-so-sublime (the tedious sub-Gospel dirge *If The River Can't Bend*).

Both sets are more perfunctory than passionate and the whole show only really kicks into life during the duets in the encore, where both stars hit off each other. Despite a rather pointless cover of *Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds*, Saturday night's finale *The Piano Man* did go some way to warming our otherwise chilled blains.

NICK KELLY

Drassed off

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Romance with a classic model

The American pianist Richard Goode has won much acclaim in recent years for his Beethoven sonata cycles and his ongoing series of Mozart concertos. Perhaps it is not surprising, therefore, that it is the Classical orientation of his pianism that strikes one, even in a mixed-repertoire programme such as he offered at the Barbican Hall last week.

Opening with the Second Partita in C Minor by Bach, Goode made no apologies for his modern concert grand, with firmly placed chords getting the Sinfonia under way. But the scale was well judged, just as the tempos and phrasing of the succeeding movements always conformed to the demands of the style. Above all, it was the clarity with which the part-writing was unfolded, the equipoise of imitative entries, that impressed.

So, too, in Beethoven's Sonata in E flat major, Goode unfailingly realised the clarity of textures, whether it was the left hand supplying an arpeggiated accompaniment to a singing line in the right (first movement), carefully weighted dynamic contrasts (Scherzo) or snatches of melody passing from one hand to another (finale). Everything here was in place, well-ordered and finely calibrated: in short, a model Classical performance.

The extent to which the spirit of Classicism should dominate a work of Schumann's, such as the Fantasy in

CONCERTS

Richard Goode Barbican

C. is more arguable. The title itself, taken with the hermetic motto of Schlegel, not to mention the surging currents of the music, all proclaim the Romantic spirit in full flood. The strength of Goode's reading was the discipline he brought to those torrents of notes, the powerful sculpting of paragraphs from what can often seem like a seething, inchoate mass of sound. If there was a weakness, it was in the relative lack of gravity accorded the massive sonorities of the central section, and perhaps in the reluctance to invoke the spirit of reverie a little more often.

The Classicising tendency raised its head as a problem once again in the group of four Preludes taken from the two sets by Debussy. Some of the detail in *La terrasse des audiences du clair de lune*, for example, might profitably have been rendered a touch more hazily, while the footfall of *Des pas sur la neige* lacked something in mystery. The Spanish rhythms in *La Sérénade interrompue*, on the other hand, were suitably sharp and the sprightly humour of *General Lavine - eccentric* (played as an encore) was captured to perfection.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Smile, please

So what was the Mona Lisa smiling at? Perhaps Leonardo da Vinci himself left us a clue in his *Treatise on painting* when he describes how the painter works: "Often," he says, "he is accompanied by music or reading... which are heard with the greatest pleasure."

For their imaginative programme of music for the Mona Lisa, Concordia put together a selection of songs and instrumental pieces from around the time Leonardo would have been working on the *Mona Lisa* in his studio in Florence in 1503. The music — by Josquin, Compté and Trombonico among others — is now available on CD on the Metronome label. But for its presentation at the Cochrane Theatre as part of the Covent Garden Festival the group went further.

The songs and dances were linked together by readings from Leonardo's own notebooks: profound and often witty utterances on the nature of art and almost every other aspect of the human condition, beautifully read by Christopher Benjamin. Less convincing, perhaps, was Netia Davan Wetton's direction of the whole, though there were some good lighting effects with shadows being cast against white screens that suggested the potential of the blank canvas. Her ideas began promisingly, but seemed to fizzle out.

Still, something was definitely gained, and the addi-

tion of a dancer, William Kemp, also proved more illuminating than I expected. There was nothing in "period" about his dancing, but it reflected very well Leonardo's dictum that "every action must be expressed in movement". At first Kemp moved with f'ai-chi-like slowness, standing with arms outstretched in a manner reminiscent of the artist's famous anatomical drawings (and with a physique such as might well have brought a smile to the lips of the Mona Lisa, but later in Compté's marvellous song *Le Grand Desir* the flow of movement was perfectly matched to that of the music, as were his stag-like leaps in the anonymous *Saltarello el francois*.

Concordia Cochrane, WC1

The musicians of Concordia played with stylistic ease and polish, the shifting instrumental colours being as subtle and well thought out as the lighting. The counter tenor Robin Blaze sang with beauty of tone and elegance of phrasing and for once the texts of these strophic songs were performed in full, as no doubt they would have been in the artist's studio. Leonardo might have been capable of inventing the radio, but he wouldn't have needed to switch it on.

TESS KNIGHTON

THEATRE: Jeremy Kingston on the first plays of the new season at Shakespeare's wooden O



Norbert Ketrup as Shylock in Richard Olivier's staging of *Merchant of Venice*. "His ponderous gait and brooding manner suit the role well"

The holy texts of drama in their rightful place

The sunlight is dazzling in the front seats of the bays directly opposite the stage of Shakespeare's Globe. So bring coverings if rain threatens, remember that the last hour of an evening performance may be chilly, do not scatter muffin crumbs (Elizabethan muffins are on sale but their crumbs attract the birds), and consider eyeshades for a matinee.

Having said all that, a visit to this lovingly reconstructed theatre is a joyful excursion. True, the uncarpeted stairs and the great nails on the door panels, the painted pillars and the neatly thatched roof, are two years old, not 402, yet the combination of period details gives some sensation of what it must have been like to listen to the holy texts of our drama when they were newly penned.

front, which is certainly the better place to be, and the ingenious scene between Launcelot Gobbo and his blind father even reveals that a pillar can help the comedy. Usually the Gobbo interchange is tediously unfunny but Marcello Magni's infectious merry and ad-libbing Launcelot runs through a quick sequence of disguises

that climaxes with him clambering on top of the square pedestal to become an appealing horse and his rider. Olivier's production otherwise brings few surprises, nor does it attempt to show why Mark Rylance's Bassanio needs his 3,000 ducats in the first place. The programme tells us this sum is equivalent to more than £300,000 in today's money, and while this

may have helped to pay Bassanio's trumpeter, it certainly doesn't go on a new outfit. His need is especially odd in a play that crucially emphasises the folly of outward show.

To be led to wonder about this suggests a production where attention wanders, and this proves to be the case. Rylance's diction is curiously nasal and withheld, both in volume and in range. Kathryn Pogson's Portia, though physically commanding in the court scene, and vocally interesting here, falls back on a repetitive tone when playing her own sex.

As You Like It / The Merchant of Venice / Globe

This week in THE TIMES



THEATRE A splendidly cast Shaw, *The Doctor's Dilemma*, is staged at the Almeida OPENS: Wednesday REVIEW: Friday



DANCE Birmingham Royal Ballet celebrates Dame Ninette de Valois' 100th birthday OPENS: Wednesday REVIEW: Friday



OPERA Trisha Brown makes her opera directing debut with *L'Orfeo* at the Barbican OPENS: Wednesday REVIEW: Friday



FILM Can Richard Gere prove his innocence in the China thriller *Red Corner*? RELEASED: Friday REVIEW: Thursday

PLUS: The Finsbury Park Fleadh kicks off with chart-toppers James. Saturday

A large grid of theatre listings for the week of June 1, 1998. The listings are organized by theatre and include details such as play titles, cast members, and ticket prices. Theatres listed include Apollo Victoria, Barbican, Cochrane, and many others. The listings cover a wide range of genres, from classical drama to contemporary musicals.

Advertisement for 'The Antiquarian Book Fair' at Olympia 2, 4-7 June 1998. It features the text 'The books which prove most agreeable, grateful and companionable, are those we pick up by chance here and there; those which seem put into our hands by Providence' and lists various book titles and genres available at the fair.

Advertisement for '298,000 READERS OF THIS SECTION ATTEND THE THEATRE AT LEAST 2/3 TIMES A YEAR. 152,000 GO TO THE THEATRE ONCE EVERY 2/3 MONTHS.' It includes contact information for the theatre listings team and mentions that all major credit cards are accepted.



THE KOSOVAN CAULDRON

Western ideas to be examined - and abandoned

The Nato announcement that it is to draw up contingency plans for troops along the Albanian border with Kosovo is a stark indication of the worry in Western capitals over a new outbreak of fighting - seen again over the weekend - in the Balkans. It also shows how much the alliance has been mesmerised by the mistakes of Bosnia.

Tirana, deploy a naval force in the Albanian port of Durrës and increase the size of the United Nations force in Macedonia from 800 to 1,050 troops. The exercises would demonstrate Nato readiness to use its muscle in the region and familiarise Western forces with the rugged terrain.

Nato ministers who met in Luxembourg last week were determined to display resolution and send a message to President Milosevic that they would not tolerate a new round of ethnic cleansing. Their aim is to halt the Serb oppression of the Albanian majority in Kosovo and prevent the conflict spilling across Yugoslavia's borders.

Such difficulties would be as nothing compared with the attempt to guarantee the Albanian border. Nato has no experience among the goat trails of these mountains.

Diplomacy alone is unlikely to influence Mr Milosevic. He has already rejected any outside mediation, set his face against any meaningful negotiation with Kosovo leaders and fallen back on crude populist nationalism to rally Serbs in their intransigence.

A better strategy would be to use the proposed autumn exercises to survey the terrain and prepare bases in both Albania and Macedonia for use by a possible rapid reaction force.

Nato exercises in both Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are less easy to overlook. Nato has already decided to station a five-man "cell" in

Britain could then take the lead in involving other nuclear nations in negotiations towards a multilateral agreement on the global elimination of nuclear weapons.

Danger from tests in sub-continent

From Dr Scilla Elworthy

Sir, When Pakistan said it would test nuclear weapons, we in the West threatened and cajoled. It had no effect. And now we condemn. This is equally ineffective, for a simple reason.

To impose sanctions and censure aid is a weak reaction; as we know from Iraq, it hurts women, children and the poor, and has little effect on decision-makers.

The choice is no longer how many nuclear weapons we in the nuclear club can have. The choice is, quite starkly, between arranging for the elimination of nuclear weapons or anticipating their proliferation to many other countries and sub-state groups.

There are three initial steps we could take now, with no risk to our security and great potential benefit. We could take our own nuclear weapons off full hair-trigger alert, and agree with other nations to do the same.

Britain could then take the lead in involving other nuclear nations in negotiations towards a multilateral agreement on the global elimination of nuclear weapons.

Police numbers and effectiveness

From the Home Secretary

Sir, Despite the grand promises made by the Liberal Democrats at the last election, Alan Beith (letter, May 23) knows that no responsible government can make commitments about the number of police on our streets.

Of course the public are right to be concerned about effective policing, but numbers don't guarantee it in themselves. As Home Secretary I have responsibility to ensure that the police have the resources they need - this year funding for the police rose by 3.7 per cent to £7.1 billion.

The police are the first to say that they cannot tackle crime on their own. Local communities have a crucial role to play, and the measures in our Crime and Disorder Bill currently before Parliament will strengthen these local partnerships.

Yours sincerely, JACK STRAW, Home Office, Horse Guards, Whitehall, SW1A 2AA. May 27.

Two wheels good, four wheels bad

From Mr Charlie Lloyd

Sir, The increasing rate of cyclists' injuries as the number of cyclists declines (report, "Safety fears put brake on cycling push", May 26) has long been recognised by engineers and transport professionals.

Cycling is inherently safer; the risks arise in unsafe surroundings. The national cycling strategy, promoted by the Government in 1996 and since adopted by the Labour Government, aims to reverse the trend of fewer cyclists being at greater risk.

Yours, CHARLIE LLOYD (Researcher, Transport Research and Consultancy, University of North London, 42 Beck Road, E8 4RE. c.lloyd@unl.ac.uk May 26).

From Councillor Stephen Hocking

Sir, I was disappointed to read that ministers are being advised to rethink plans to encourage cycling for fear that this could lead to more injuries.

Yours faithfully, STEPHEN HOCKING, (Councillor, London Borough of Camden), 103 West End Lane, NW6 4SY. May 26.

Prospects for peace in future Europe

From Mr Donald Stark

Sir, Professor J. A. Barnard and Mr Jon Davey (letters, May 26) take a pessimistic view of the prospects for peace in what Mr Davey describes as "artificial political unions".

Yours faithfully, DONALD STARK, 14 Sutherland Street, SW1V 4LB. michael.stark@btinternet.com May 26.

From Mr Richard Guise

Sir, As a proud European who is neither businessman nor politician, may I take issue with the notion, often heard amongst Eurosceptics and implied in his letter (May 26) by Alan Smith, that the European project is trying to create some sort of a European "nation": the idea is indeed a contradiction in terms.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD GUISE, 44 Wellington Street, Long Eaton, Nottingham NG10 4NG. richard_guise@compuserve.com May 26.

From Mrs Piri Pincham

Sir, I was delighted to read Mr Davey's letter. His phrase "artificial political unions" accounts for most of Europe's history of the past 2,000 years, with the repeated building and ruining of various empires.

Yours faithfully, MRS PIRI PINCHAM, 35 Lodge Close, Cobham, Surrey KT11 2SG. May 27.

From Mr Brian Crozier

Sir, Charles de Gaulle did not call for an Europe des pays, as Frank Tomlin puts it (letter, May 26), although the usual misquote puts it another way: l'Europe des patries ("Europe of the fatherlands").

INVISIBLE INCOME

Taxation by stealth may rebound on the Government

When Gordon Brown prepared to open his Budget box 11 weeks ago, there were many among the middle classes who felt a powerful sensation of foreboding. Although the Government had pledged explicitly that it would not increase either the standard or higher rates of income tax in the course of this Parliament, it seemed certain that extra revenue would be extracted by some other method.

holders in an area. A new supertax for second-home owners is a different question. This would be simple and unjustified social engineering. There are real problems associated with the explosion of property prices in picturesque rural areas.

The 300,000 or more owners of second homes may be experiencing a sense of renewed discomfort this morning. Hilary Armstrong, the Local Government Minister, has confirmed that the Department of the Environment is considering a radical revision of council tax arrangements.

Instead of issuing threats and wringing their hands this ought to be the moment for the declared nuclear powers to put the whole non-proliferation regime on a much sounder and more realistic basis.

Although the additional expense will not be welcomed, there is a case for reassessing these matters. A council tax is charged both for services that are actually performed (such as refuse collection) and those that are available (local libraries). The owner of a second home has access to all, not half, of these amenities.

If the five existing nuclear powers cannot strike a more positive note and seize the opportunity then perhaps it is time for the Commonwealth to find its voice and take a lead - although I have heard nothing from that direction so far.

FOOTBALL CLIPPINGS

The World Cup is a lottery, but the English lawn is a winner

A lawnmower is England's secret weapon for the World Cup. As we report today, a machine identical to those used on the Wimbledon pitch has been exported to France, where Wembley's head groundsman is training the French gardeners in its use.

The lawn is an English peculiarity. The first foreigners to record their impressions noted its greenness, just as tourists from lands of the water-sprinkler and Astroturf today are amazed by the lush but orderly lawns of colleges, cathedral closes and stately homes.

On most topics Samuel Johnson is the patron saint of the English idiosyncrasy. However, when he said "A blade of grass is always a blade of grass, whether in one country or another", he was for once an ass. But then Dr Johnson would have been a terrible gardener. His artificial lawn would have died if it had been invented.

So Glenn Hoddle is leaving nothing to chance in his preparations for the World Cup, apart from his provision of a clairvoyant, whose profession is chance. The dietary needs of the players, even of Gazza, are catered for. They have all been ordered to go to the dentist before they leave on their campaign.

Yours faithfully, DAVID EDWARDS, 16 Lowfield Crescent, Sliden, Kierghley, West Yorkshire BD20 0QE. May 25.

Defective homes

From Mr David Edwards

Sir, I read with concern your report today about building defects in new homes. It seems appropriate that the memo which prompted the item was leaked.

Yours faithfully, DAVID EDWARDS, 16 Lowfield Crescent, Sliden, Kierghley, West Yorkshire BD20 0QE. May 25.

Final offer

From Ms Penelope Beaumont-Wright

Sir, I was somewhat unnerved to receive the following letter from Barclays Bank:

Yours faithfully, PENELOPE BEAUMONT-WRIGHT, 235 Streetsbrook Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1HE. May 30.

'Stealing' time

From Mr L. J. Abernethy

Sir, Dr Gary Slapper ("Stealing time is now a crime", Law, May 26) suggests that it may now become illegal to pass on unused portions of parking tickets to other motorists.

Yours faithfully, LEE J. ABERNETHY, 49 Thornhill Road, Mannedale, Plymouth PL3 5NF. d2261238@infotrade.co.uk May 26.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

use?

Vertical text on the far left margin, partially obscured and illegible.

Orthcoming marriage

G.S. Lawson Johnston engagement is announced...

riages

J. Gray C.E.L. Macpherson marriage took place...

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OBITUARIES

LORNE WELCH

Lorne Welch, engineer, pilot and Colditz prisoner of war...

A pilot both before and after the war, Lorne Welch was shot down over Nazi-occupied Europe in 1942...

Patrick Palles Lorne Elphinstone Welch was educated at Stowe, a young school free from tradition...

He did his elementary pilot training at Woodley, and with only 110 hours solo was sent on to an instructor's course...

AS the chairman of Coutts, Timothy Egerton, as he was known, was responsible for the banking of the Royal Family...

ERIKA CHEETHAM translator and interpreter of Nostradamus, died on May 3 aged 58...

There are no mistakes in life, some people say, but the book that was delivered to Erika Cheetham in the Taylorian Library in Oxford...

Appointments The Rev David Ashton, NSM Curate, St Leonard's Church and St Mary Magdalen (Chichester); to be NSM Curate, Upper St Leonard's (same diocese)...

Church news

The Rev Cyril Harris, Vicar, Stoke Poges St Giles (Oxford) to retire October 31.

The Rev Maurice Horsey, Chaplain, Costa del Sol West, Spain (Europe) to retire August 31.

The Rev John Richardson, Vicar, Metheringham, Blankney and Dunston (Lincoln) to retire August 31.

The Rev Sheila Shrimpton, Curate, Brant Broughton and Beckingham (Lincoln) to retire August 31.

The Rev Philip Ward, Vicar, Hambleton Blessed Virgin Mary w St John w Out Rawcliffe, and Poulton-le-Fylde (Blackburn) to retire August 31.

The Rev Geoffrey Wood, Vicar, Fressingfield, Menham, Metfield, Weybread and Withersdale (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) to retire October 31.

The Rev Dr Jim Garrard, recently Assistant Curate, Eland Team (Wakefield); to be Team Vicar.

The Rev David Barnes, Vicar, Ash w Westmarsh (Canterbury); to be also Rural Dean of East Bridge (same diocese).

LAUNCH OF THE TITANIC

VESSEL SUCCESSFULLY TAKES THE WATER

In brilliant weather, and in the presence of thousands of spectators, the new White Star liner Titanic was successfully launched from the yard of Messrs Harland and Wolff (Limited) a few minutes after noon this morning.

Some particulars of the vessels, with a description of their machinery, were given in The Times of Saturday. They are 8521, 9111, long over all, or 8501, over perpendiculars, and they have an extreme breadth of 92ft, 6in., with a depth moulded of 33ft, 6in. from the keel to the top of the beams of the bridge deck.

Owing to the vessel being in a somewhat less advanced condition, the launching weight was less than that of the Olympic, being between 24,000 tons and 25,000 tons, as against 27,000 tons.

The launching arrangements for the Titanic were similar to those in the case of the Olympic last October. In the hours immediately preceding the launch men were busily engaged in removing the shores, until the vessel was retained only by a hydraulic trigger, which was allowed to fall clear at the appropriate time by relieving the water pressure in the attached cylinder.

Another hydraulic apparatus for giving the vessel a thrust should she show any reluctance to move down the launching ways was in readiness, but was not required, for checking the vessel's progress after she was afloat six anchors were provided, three on each side, connected with her hull by 7in. steel hawsers; and in addition there were two piles of cable drags, each weighing over 80 tons, placed in the bed of the river and attached to her by 8in. steel hawsers.

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ON THIS DAY

June 1, 1911

Books, documentaries, films and, in 1985, the discovery of the hull of the Titanic have resurrected the night of April 14, 1912, when the "unsinkable" liner struck an iceberg.

By two sets of four-crank triple-expansion reciprocating engines of 30,000 i.h.p., and an exhaust turbine giving 16,000 shaft h.p., and they are designed to maintain a continuous sea speed of 21 knots. Steam is supplied at a pressure of 215 lb. per square inch under natural draught by 29 boilers, having in all 159 furnaces.

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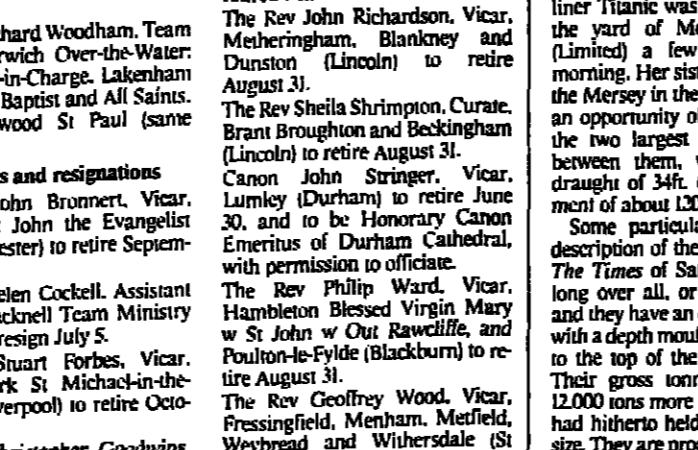
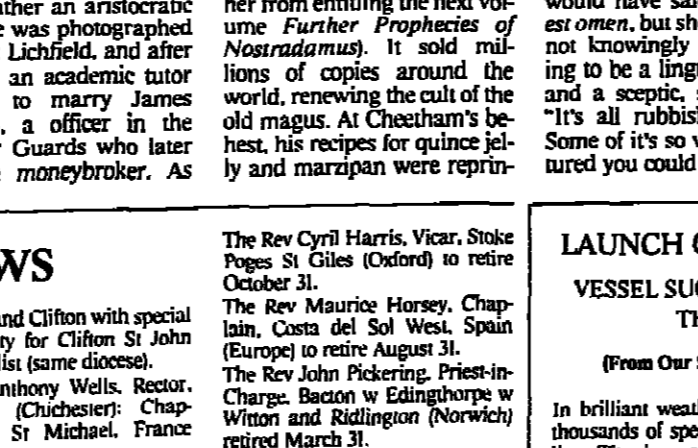
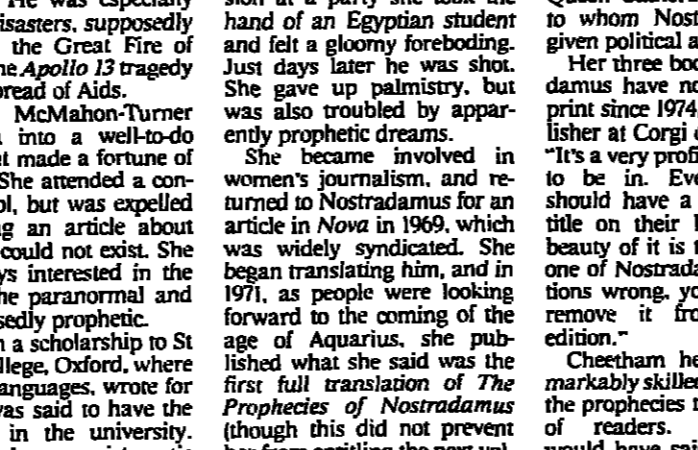
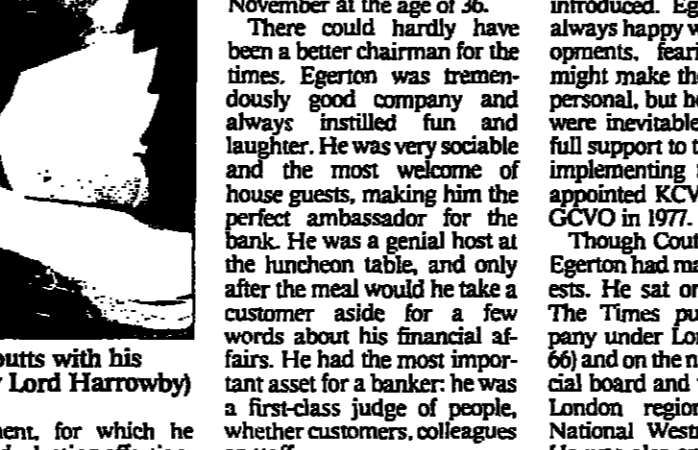
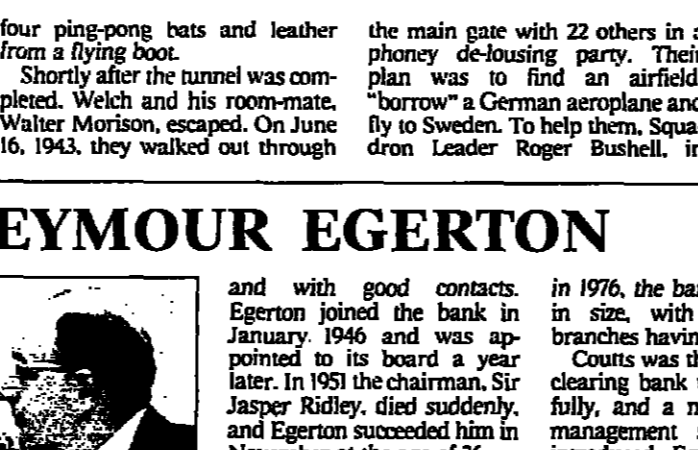
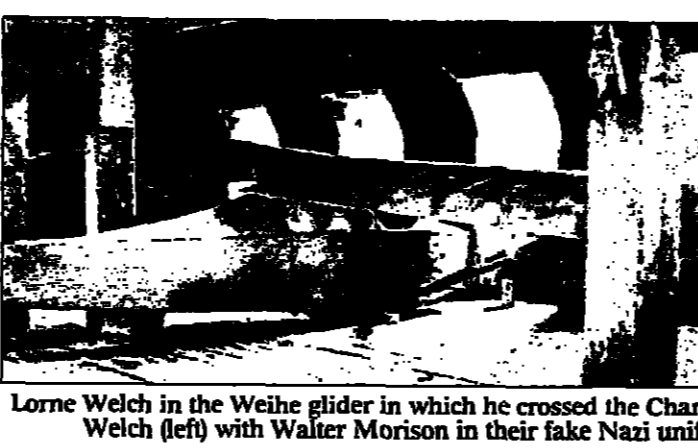
Owing to the vessel being in a somewhat less advanced condition, the launching weight was less than that of the Olympic, being between 24,000 tons and 25,000 tons, as against 27,000 tons.

The launching arrangements for the Titanic were similar to those in the case of the Olympic last October. In the hours immediately preceding the launch men were busily engaged in removing the shores, until the vessel was retained only by a hydraulic trigger, which was allowed to fall clear at the appropriate time by relieving the water pressure in the attached cylinder.

Another hydraulic apparatus for giving the vessel a thrust should she show any reluctance to move down the launching ways was in readiness, but was not required, for checking the vessel's progress after she was afloat six anchors were provided, three on each side, connected with her hull by 7in. steel hawsers; and in addition there were two piles of cable drags, each weighing over 80 tons, placed in the bed of the river and attached to her by 8in. steel hawsers.

Owing to the vessel being in a somewhat less advanced condition, the launching weight was less than that of the Olympic, being between 24,000 tons and 25,000 tons, as against 27,000 tons.

LORNE WELCH



Lorne Welch in the Weibe glider in which he crossed the Channel; the glider built by prisoners of war in the attic at Colditz...

Welch (left) with Walter Morison in their fake Nazi uniforms after they were caught trying to steal a German plane...

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MABEL ESTHER ALLAN

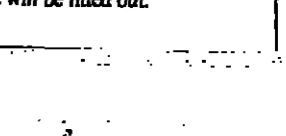
Mabel Esther Allan, author, died on May 14 aged 83. She was born on February 11, 1915.

IN a writing career of more than half a century, Mabel Esther Allan published some 180 novels, mainly for young and adolescent readers, and contributed more than 300 short stories and articles to annuals and magazines.

The acceptance of her first full-length novel in 1939 turned into a rejection with the outbreak of war, and it was not until 1945 that the stream of her books began to flow.

Just before she gave up the Land Army, her home in Walsley was badly damaged in an air raid. During the Blitz, in long night hours in air raid shelters, she wrote an escapist novel with a 1920s Hebridean setting.

Owing to the vessel being in a somewhat less advanced condition, the launching weight was less than that of the Olympic, being between 24,000 tons and 25,000 tons, as against 27,000 tons.



NEWS

Brown to keep lid on spending

Gordon Brown is to tell Cabinet ministers that the stringent financial discipline of Labour's first year in government will continue until the next general election.

With the agreement of Tony Blair, the Chancellor is to dash expectations that he has hidden reserves of cash by requiring the public finances to remain in surplus every year for the next four years.

Palace tries to stop Diana speculation

The Queen and Prince Charles plan to appeal privately to television and newspapers to stop speculating about the romantic intentions of Diana, Princess of Wales, and raising suspicions about her death in Paris.

Earthquake toll

The military alliance controlling most of northern Afghanistan appealed for international aid after an earthquake killed up to 5,000 people.

Ginger Spice goes

After seven hit singles and two chart-topping albums, the five-girl group which became a £300 million industry has become four after Geri Halliwell left the group.

No party party

Sinn Fein leaders Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness refused to fuel sectarian tensions in Northern Ireland by refusing an invitation by Mo Mowlam to a Royal garden party.

Unkindest cut

Glenn Hoddle, the England football coach, has upset French sensibilities at the team's World Cup training ground by telling ground staff that they have the wrong lawnmowers.

Charity boom

Britain's leading charities have succeeded against competition from the National Lottery and increased their incomes by 11 per cent to £4.4 billion.

Deformed bears

Scientists have discovered polar bear cubs with both male and female sex organs. The deformities are thought to be linked to the increasing pollution.

Top table costs £1,000 a seat

The most expensive table purchased by the Government is being built to seat 49 politicians at the Cardiff EU summit. The £50,000 rugby-ball shaped table is being made of American white oak veneer with purple steel frame legs.

Office strain

The long hours executives are expected to work are taking a serious toll, prompting increasing numbers of them to consider switching to lower paid, less punishing jobs.

Bus nuisance

Royal Crescent in Bath is under assault from the qi convoys of open-top double-decker tour buses that trundle by from dawn to dusk.

Pakistan defiance

Pakistan defied international criticism of its latest rounds of nuclear tests by pledging to press ahead with development of its nuclear arsenal, probably numbering 15 to 25 weapons.

Kosovo danger

The war in Kosovo has spread to within 20 miles of Pristina, the capital, as Serb security forces have extended their "cleansing" of strategic villages.

Hong Kong march

More than 2,000 people marched in Hong Kong to mark the anniversary of the Tiananmen Square killings for the first time since China took over.

Happy Jospin

Lionel Jospin will celebrate his first year as French Prime Minister buoyed by record poll ratings, a growing economy and the implosion of the country's centre-right Opposition.



Richard Brown trying out his rocket-powered motorbike on Pendine Sands, Wales, as he prepares to beat the world record of 32mph

BUSINESS

Rolls bid: A consortium of owners that wants to keep Rolls-Royce British, says it will top bids from Volkswagen and BMW.

Takeover price: A payment of up to £15 million to the Royal Bank of Scotland will leave Birmingham Midshires Building Society free to negotiate a higher takeover bid by the Halifax.

Securities deal: Much of Nikko Securities seems destined to come with the orbit of America's biggest financial services conglomerate if a complex deal succeeds.

Electric shock: Competition in the electricity supply industry will force down prices and most firms will be forced to close or merge within six years, a survey of industry managers says.

FEATURES

Young love: Women are increasingly defying the disapproval of society and choosing younger men as their partners.

Football crazy: Fans have the same physical reactions to victory and defeat as footballers, researchers have discovered.

Backs are back: Clothes with holes are this summer's revealing fashion. Grace Bradberry, Style Editor, on the understated sexuality of a bare back.

ARTS

Melvin Bragg: The BBC dominates broadcasting in this country. No one else comes anywhere near it.

Keyboard kings: Elton John and his fellow piano-playing pop star Billy Joel team up for a tour which began in Dublin.

Double helping: The American pianist Richard Goode turns in an impressive performance at the Barbican; while Concordia plays music Mona Lisa might have listened to.

Opening nights: Two Shakespeare productions, As You Like It and The Merchant of Venice, launch the new summer season at the Globe Theatre.

SPORTS

Football: Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, was last night informing six players that they will be omitted from his final World Cup squad.

Test match: Dominic Cork has been recalled to the England squad for the first Test against South Africa, starting at Edgbaston on Thursday.

Golf: Lee Westwood recorded a course-record 61 in the third round of the Deutsche Bank SAP Open in Hamburg.

Cricket: Graeme Hick scored his hundredth first-class century in Worcestershire's championship match against Sussex.

Cycling: Stuart O'Grady emerged as winner of the Proutour after the final stage in the City of London.

Racing: Dream Well led a one-two for the trainer, Pascal Bary, in the French Derby.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

ARTS Andy Warhol's love of style and fashion is highlighted in a new show at the Barbican.

LAW Bosses can use the law to keep employees working during the World Cup period.

Preview: Reconstruction of the first electric chair execution: Secret History (Channel 4, 9pm). Review: Due South is an enjoyably daff adventure. Pages 46, 47

The Kosovan cauldron The Nato announcement that it is to draw up contingency plans for troops along the Albanian border with Kosovo is a stark indication of Western worry. Page 21

Invisible income The 500,000 or more owners of second homes may be experiencing a sense of renewed discomfort this morning. Hilary Armstrong, the local government minister, has confirmed that the Department of the Environment is considering a revision of council tax. Page 21

Football clippings A lawnmower is England's secret weapon for the World Cup. A machine identical to those used on the Wembley pitch has been exported to France. Page 21

WILLIAM REES-MOGG Religions, like nuclear bombs, have a core in the casing. Their core is the experience of the divine, the casing is a structure of ritual, priesthood and law. Page 20

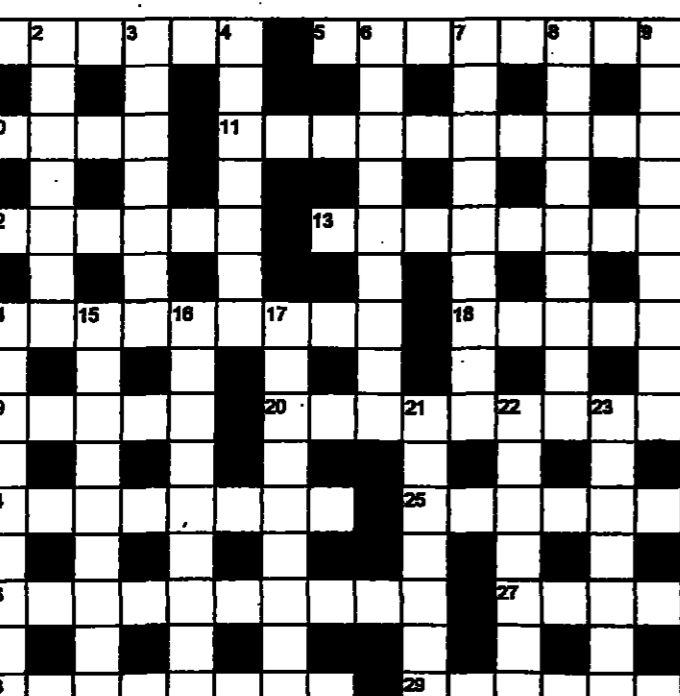
DANIEL JOHNSON Even if it were true that all revolutionaries were young, it would not follow that all young people were revolutionaries. But the power of the radical paradigm is so great that, instead of discarding it, the media has adapted it into another generation of a disillusioned generation. Page 20

STUART BELL There is nothing inevitable about a change in the voting system to proportional representation. More than 100 backbench Labour MPs have signed up against it and at least three senior Cabinet ministers are opposed. Page 20

Lorne Welch, engineer and PoW escaper; Sir Seymour Egerton, chairman of Courtis; Erika Cheetham, translator of Nostradamus; Mahdi Esther. Allan, author. Page 23

Nuclear tests: police effectiveness; cyclists' injuries; future of Europe; parking tickets. Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,806



- ACROSS 1 Quail when one's left imprisoned by magistrates (6). 5 Went before parking gets withdrawn (8). 10 Several open spaces for a meeting (4). 11 Rambling with company in natural surroundings (10). 12 Dormant reptile has secured shelter (6). 13 Stop withdrawal of assistance to parent and child (8). 14 Approach taken by exercise books to magical figure (9). 18 Mock Turtle's introduction to relation (5). 19 Rowers reducing power at the start (5). 20 Splash in curative waters to improve all round (9). 24 Convey thanks, turning in eventually (8). 25 Verse Tennyson composed leaving central New York (6). 26 Time to take further exercise after daily drink (10). 27 Soon to become a prolific writer, apparently! (4). 28 Cutting short action in second trial (8). 29 Failed to attend as agreed (6). DOWN 2 Inspection requiring a double-take? (4-3). 3 Extremely close attention needed to furnish home (7). 4 Controller used in shock treatment (7). 6 Spectacular moonrises seen in space (9). 7 Queen's palace torn almost completely asunder (9). 8 Line up on quarterdeck in formal wear (5,4). 9 Cause of outbreak as school duty list is put up after daybreak (9). 14 New court in summary sitting designated areas for police action (9). 15 A disturbance in vision after dark (9). 16 Highly informative device (9). 17 Messenger's instruction to place stake on small number at the outset (2-7). 21 Stick with sailors in this part of way (7). 22 Stout container in reservoir on a road (7). 23 Angry after survey shows unpleasant prospect (7).

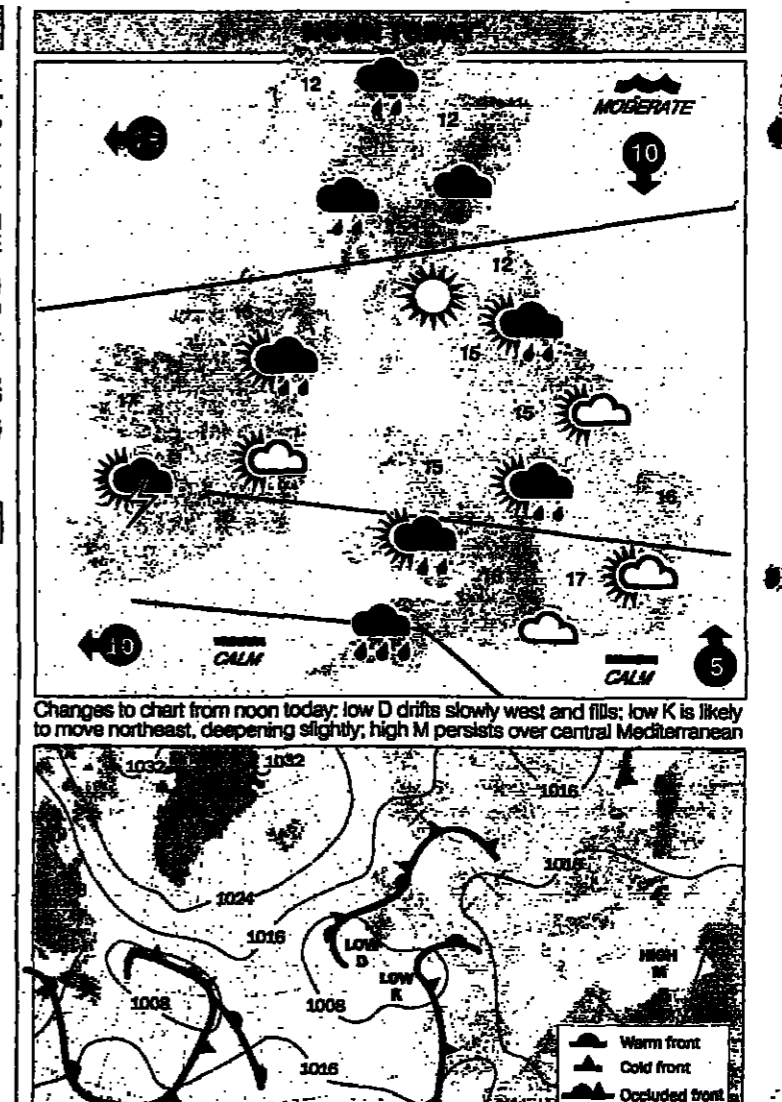
Table with weather conditions, UK Weather, and World City Weather.

FORECAST

General: today will be warm again. Further rain with thunder is expected across southern England and south Wales. Most other parts will have sunny spells and showers.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday for various locations like Aberdeen, Glasgow, London, etc.



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

Advertisement for OWPA (Western Provident Association) with a logo and contact information.

Advertisement for travel insurance from £49.95, featuring a logo and contact details.

Table with flight times and other travel information, including columns for TODAY, AM, HT, PM, and HT.

Handwritten signature or note: J.P. 1/50

Review: Reconstruction of the first atomic chair execution: Secret history (Channel 4, 9pm). Review: The South is an enjoyably dull venture... Pages 46, 47

OPINION

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COLUMNS

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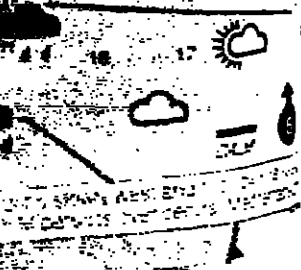
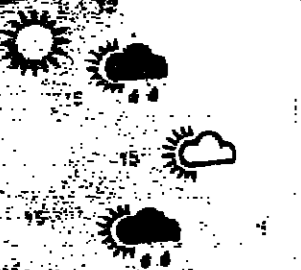
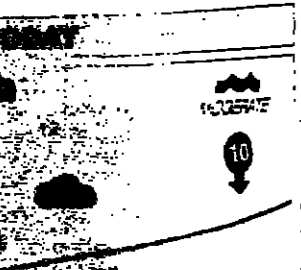
OBITUARIES

Lorne Welch: Sir Seymour Egerton, chairman of the British Overseas Airways Corporation, died at his home in London on June 1, 1998, aged 82. He was a pioneer of the jet age in Britain... Page 23

LETTERS

Nuclear tests: The effectiveness of self-defence against the future of Europe's parking ticket... Page 23

WEATHER



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FRENCH FOOTBALL

Rios stands alone against the new brigade in Paris PAGE 27

CORK POPS BACK IN Test recall for England's lost all-rounder PAGE 28

HIT THE BEACH British sands are shifting to speed and skill PAGE 39

SWISS TOUR DE FORCE Why 1998 can be Alex Zülle's year PAGE 32

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY JUNE 1 1998



Curtain falls on the era of Gascoigne

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, IN LA MANGA

ENGLAND'S World Cup prospects were dealt a devastating blow last night when it emerged that Paul Gascoigne, the man upon whom the hopes of the national team have been pinned for so long, has been left out of Glenn Hoddle's final squad of 22 but will travel to France for the beginning of the tournament next week.

His omission represents the end of an era for English football, the end of a time when all thoughts have been dominated by agonising over the player's fragility and immaturity, and weighing that against his undoubted talent.

After 57 caps in eight years, a figure greatly reduced by injury, his omission is likely to represent the end of his international career and may prompt him to think of retiring, even though he has recently signed a contract with Middlesbrough. His absence will leave a yawning chasm on the back and front pages.

Gascoigne's World Cup dream has been shattered by a series of injuries and a lack of discipline that led to him slowly losing his fitness and being unable to regain it. It seems that the last straw came on Friday night when he sustained a dead-leg against Belgium in Casablanca.

It was thought then that the injury only represented a minor setback in his struggle for fitness and, as the news began to seep out from the England hotel here last night, it seemed that Gascoigne had been omitted not because the injury was worse than first thought. Instead, his absence is due to the cumulative effect of his misdeeds and the misfortunes he has suffered in his fight for fitness. Many believe that the two are closely related.

It is likely that, with Gascoigne still some way below full fitness anyway, Hoddle decided to make by far the most ruthless decision of his managerial career and discard the player whom he has gone out of his way to defend and support so many times.

Gascoigne was told of the decision at 6pm Spanish time and the England camp was desperately trying to make arrangements for him to fly home last night. The other five players excluded from the final 22 — Andy Hinchcliffe, Phil Neville, Dion Dublin, Ian Walker and Nicky Butt — are also believed to have been allowed back early.

It is the fate of Gascoigne, though, that will sum up the despair of an invidious situation. Quite what effect a disappointment like this will have on his notoriously fragile psyche, does not bear thinking about. There are some, though, who will feel that Gascoigne's absence may be a blessing in disguise. His behaviour in the days before the team left for La Manga when he was seen eating kebabs in the early hours of the morning in Soho and indulging in a drinking binge with the rock star, Rod Stewart, in a late-night escapade in Notting Hill, angered Hoddle and will not have helped his cause.

The gaping hole he will leave in the team will, though, provide an opportunity for another player to seize his chance. There are several can-

every England squad that Hoddle has picked when he has been available. There are no doubts about his fitness and it is unlikely that Hoddle discarded him merely on the basis of a poor first half performance against Belgium.

If there is a bright side amid the disappointment, it is in the inclusion of Paul Merson, who has fought so hard against his demons, Rio Ferdinand, a star of the future, and Robert Lee. Tipped to miss out again just as he did before the 1996 European championship, Lee confounded predictions by being named in the 22. He, at least, will not have an unwanted summer holiday.

- ENGLAND'S WORLD CUP 22**
- Goalkeepers:** D Seaman, T Flowers, N Martyn
- Defenders:** S Campbell, T Adams, M Keown, G Southgate, G Neville, R Ferdinand
- Midfield:** D Anderton, D Beckham, G Le Saux, S McManaman, P Ince, D Batty, P Scholes, P Merson, R Lee
- Forwards:** A Shearer, E Sheringham, M Owen, L Ferdinand

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There was no turning back for Gascoigne last night after Hoddle omitted him from his final World Cup 22. Photograph: Empics

Ratcliffe recovers to find a bit extra

NO PRICE could be put on the desire to win. Elaine Ratcliffe... she had a four-day... with the OCS English... for the first time at Watton... but her... estimated... and a lot of...

Corretja emerges as winner of longest match in grand-slam history

Rios shows fighting qualities to beat Costa

By JULIAN MUSCAT

IF Marcelo Rios remained inclined to dissolve in hot water, he would certainly have succumbed to Albert Costa in the French Open here yesterday. The circumstances were ripe for his capitulation but the Chilean reversed the flow to strangle Costa's challenge in four compelling sets.

Rios's victory spoke of a maturity previously lacking from his character. He was usurped in an opening set, brimful with vintage tennis, yet somehow he contrived to break Costa's stranglehold on a match which more than justified its advanced billing.

The winner of 14 consecutive matches before this, Costa, seeded No 13, was gradually outmanoeuvred in a display that confirmed Rios as the overwhelming favourite for his first grand-slam title.

Rios, possibly wary of Costa's impressive form on European clay this year, also agitated the crowd with his questioning of line calls in the first set. He plainly struggled against Costa's better rhythm, desperately seeking inspiration within the dust cauldron of the Court Centrale.

The problem for Rios was that he had not contested a tight match in more than two months. That, together with the deficit he faced, might once have tempted him into submission. Now, however, he braced himself, set about the Spaniard with renewed vigour and took control to triumph 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.

Before the match a fistful of his fans unfurled a giant Chilean flag in the main concourse at Roland Garros. They knew that their man was the sole surviving seed of consequence. Despite several visits from the court-side trainer, Rios did not disappoint.

From now on he could also face exclusively Spanish opposition, which will undoubtedly combine to weaken him as the event unfolds. Tomorrow he plays Carlos Moya, seeded No 12, for a semi-final place.

In the draw's lower half, the only surviving seeds among the eight are Alex Corretja (14) and Alberto Berasategui (16), who are both from Spain. Whether Corretja can progress much further must be highly debatable after his part in the longest recorded grand-slam match, against

Hernan Gurny, of Argentina. It went on for five hours 31 minutes, after which the two close friends embraced like long-lost brothers.

At four hours, 33 minutes, Gurny's previous match, with Gianluca Pozzi, must have seemed like a breeze. And in truth, the Argentinian was unfortunate to lose for he played the more positively during their epic confrontation. Four of the five sets each lasted longer than most women's matches played yesterday.

Both men had the strength to stand and shake hands only because the match was carried over from the previous day. After three hours 42 minutes, Gurny stood just two points from victory. It was the closest he would get. Corretja rallying, despite failing to convert two earlier match points to prevail 9-7 in the decisive set. If he can rise from his bed this morning, Corretja will confront Jason Stoltenberg, of Australia, for a quarter-final place.

Cedric Pioline, the last of France's representatives in the singles today, plays Marat Safin, the Russian revelation, who followed up his defeats of Andre Agassi and the defending champion, Gustavo Kuerten, by dismissing Daniel Vacek, of the Czech Republic, in four sets on Saturday.

Safin, 18, is the sole survivor among a record 11 qualifiers to make the second round here. Filip Devulf, who, 12 months ago, reached the semi-finals after qualifying for the main draw, today plays Francisco Clavet, another Spaniard, defeated Michael Chang on Saturday to conclude US interest in this tournament, the first time that country has been unrepresented in the last 16 here since the Open era commenced in 1968. In stark contrast, Spanish players can entertain the prospect of filling all four of the semi-final places.

Felix Mantilla, seeded No 15, reached the quarter-final stage yesterday when he outclassed Ramon Delgado, 6-2, 6-2, 6-4. Mantilla has dropped only one set in his four matches to date. He now plays Thomas Muster, the winner three years ago, who prevailed in a wildly fluctuating match with Fernando Meligeni, of Brazil.



A grim-faced Muster, winner three years ago, play a backhand return during his fourth-round win over Meligeni

SPORT IN BRIEF

Criville holds off Doohan to lead championship

MOTORCYCLING: Alex Criville, of Spain, on a Repsol Honda, held off the challenge of Michael Doohan, his teammate, to win the 500cc French Grand Prix in Le Castellet yesterday. The win, his second of the season, put Criville ahead in the race for the world championship. He holds a slender two-point lead over Doohan, the defending world champion, from Australia, who complained afterwards that his Honda had suffered from a lack of power.

Couples leads despite pain

GOLF: Fred Couples overcame a migraine to record his second successive 67 to open a three-stroke lead after the third round of the PGA Memorial tournament in Dublin, Ohio. Couples shared the lead with Len Mattiace after the second round, but used an eagle at the par-five 15th to improve to 202, 14 under par. He headed an impressive leaderboard, which included Davis Love III, the reigning US PGA champion, at 205, 11 under par, Ernie Els, twice the US Open champion, and two others at 206 and David Duval, the leading US PGA Tour money-winner this season, at 207. Mattiace stumbled to a 73 to be eight under par.

Gebrselassie bids for record

ATHLETICS: Haile Gebrselassie, of Ethiopia, will attempt to reclaim the 10,000 metres world record that he lost to Paul Tergat, of Kenya, last year when he steps on to an outdoor track for the first time this season at the meeting in Hengelo, Holland, today. Gebrselassie will be paced in his challenge by several of his fellow Ethiopian runners at the Adriaan Paulen Memorial meeting as he chases the time of 26min 27.88sec that was set by Tergat last August. "I'm hoping for the record if the weather is good," Gebrselassie, who is the reigning Olympic and world champion for the event, said yesterday.

Canterbury tale for Crusaders

RUGBY UNION: The Canterbury Crusaders pulled off a surprise by securing the Super 12 title with a 20-13 defeat of the Auckland Blues, the defending champions, in Auckland on Saturday. The teams from New Zealand matched each other point for point in a closely-fought game, with a try by James Kerr, of Canterbury, finally breaking a 13-all impasse. Kerr capitalised on a clever kick from Andrew Mehrtens, the ball spilling freely for the wing to score. Auckland, who had the upper hand often throughout the match, tried desperately to fight back after Mehrtens' conversion but ran out of time.

Indiana maintain pace

BASKETBALL: The Indiana Pacers took the Chicago Bulls to a deciding match in their National Association (NBA) best-of-seven semi-final series after a 92-86 victory in Indianapolis. Travis Best, the Indiana reserve point guard, stole the spotlight against the two-time defending champions. Working against Michael Jordan, he succeeded with a difficult shot with 33sec left and answered two Jordan free throws with a pair of his own with 8.5sec to play. Jordan missed twice in the final minute and, if Chicago were to lose the seventh game, there is speculation that defeat would signal the end of his illustrious career.

Hague takes World Cup lead

ORIENTEERING: Yvette Hague, of Great Britain, won the World Cup short race final at Windermere in the Lake District yesterday to move into the overall lead after three of the ten individual series events. Over a 4.3-kilometre course at Blackholme Plantation, Hague clocked 25min 21sec to beat Katarina Boger, the Sweden No 1, into second place by 29sec. While not a first World Cup success for Hague, the result comes as a much-needed boost for the British No 1, who has failed to live up to her potential because of injury since she won the bronze medal in the world championships in the United States six years ago.

POLO

Ellerston power has Buffalos on run

ELLERSTON WHITE... power has Buffalos on run... the Buffalos... Ellerston... Buffalo... on run... the Buffalos... Ellerston... Buffalo... on run...

Hingis turns the heat on Williams

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT

THE uncrowned queen of Roland Garros could not have put it more succinctly. "This is like the warm-up," Martina Hingis said yesterday after her 6-1, 6-2 demolition of Anna Smashnova, of Israel. "The real tournament for the stars starts from the second week."

Hingis is one of ten women's seeds to advance to the last 16, eight of them without dropping a set. Nothing about her first week here will have any bearing on her quarter-final match tomorrow with Venus Williams — herself a runaway winner yesterday over Henrieta Nagyova, from Slovakia.

The pair are inseparable after four matches this year, although Hingis has the mental ascendancy after she edged out Williams in Rome two weeks ago. "It was good for me to beat her in the final of a big tournament," Hingis said. "I hope she will remember that."

Hingis's last remark betrayed an anxiety that she will not publicly acknowledge. Her rivalry with Williams is developing along classic lines. It undoubtedly piques Hingis when Williams is mentioned in the same breath. "If you look at the rankings, I'm almost 3,000 points ahead," she said. "You can't really say there are rivals for me right now. It is always me and someone else in the semi-finals or final. Everybody [not just Williams] is trying to make rivalries against me."

Pressed further on the basis for her confidence against the fierce-hitting Williams, Hingis, 17, retorted: "Why shouldn't I be? I'm No 1 and I have won four grand-slam titles."

Williams, seeded No 8, was detained for 64 minutes by



Lindsay Davenport, the No 2 seed, eases past Sandrine Testud, of France, yesterday

Nagyova, who acquired some belief after dropping the opening set tamely. Like so many who play Williams for the first time, Nagyova, world-ranked No 28, was overwhelmed by her opponent's power before rising to the challenge and posing Williams problems. At 4-3 in the second set, however, Williams effectively claimed the match when she captured a long game to end Nagyova's resistance 6-1, 6-3.

Hingis also said that Venus's sister, Serena, was some way from challenging for the

RESULTS FROM ROLAND GARROS

MEN: Third round: H Arati (Mor) bt M Zebalot (Arg) 6-4, 0-6, 6-4, 7-6; C Pioline (Fr) bt R Kuznetz (Hol) 6-3, 6-2; A Berasategui (Sp) bt D Hrbaty (Slovakia) 6-7, 6-3, 7-5, 7-5; M Salin (Russ) bt D Vacek (Cz) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; F Dewulf (Bel) bt T Erqyha (Swe) 6-3, 6-2; J Stoltenberg (US) bt M Cahwet (Sp) bt M Chang (US) 3-6, 7-6, 6-2, 6-4; A Corretja (Sp) bt H Gurny (Arg) 6-1, 5-7, 6-7, 5-7; Fourth round: M Pies (Chile) bt A Costa (Sp) 4-6, 6-3, 6-3; C Moya (Sp) bt J Knipoch (Ger) 6-3, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4; T Muster (Aust) bt F Mantilla (Sp) 4, 6-7, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; F Mantilla (Sp) bt R Delgado (Par) 6-2, 2-6, 6-2; Women: Third round: S Williams (US) bt D Van Roost (Bel) 6-1, 6-1; A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) bt A Fusai (Fr) 6-2, 6-1; S Testud (Fr) bt G L Garcia (Sp) 6-1, 6-1; P Schryder (Switz) bt S Farina (It) 6-2, 6-1; C Marinic (Sp) bt V Ruano-Pascual (Sp) 6-1, 6-0; M Serna (Sp) bt R Dragomir (Rom) 6-4, 2-6, 6-1; I Majoli (Cro) bt M Diaz-Oliva (Arg) 6-2, 7-6; L Davenport (US) bt E Likhovitsva (Russ) 7-5, 7-6; Fourth round: M Sales (US) bt C Ruger (US) 6-1, 6-4; A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) bt S Williams (US) 4-6, 7-5, 6-3; Mixed Doubles: Second round: A-G Sotgiu (Fr) and S Grossu (An) bt R Sudek (Aus) and M Bhupathi (Ind) 6-4, 6-4; K Kunc (Aus) and F Montana (US) bt M De Swart (SA) and N Broad (GB) 6-4, 5-7, 7-5

LAST EIGHT

Ties to be played tomorrow: M Hingis v V Williams; A Nagyova v J Novotna v M Salek; P Schryder v A Sanchez Vicario; C Marinic or I Majoli v L Davenport

game's highest honours. Within hours of her pronouncement, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario endorsed Hingis's case when she defeated the younger sister in a match that she seemed destined to lose in straight sets.

Acrimony surrounded the conclusion to the first set, when Sanchez Vicario, seeded No 4, hotly disputed whether her opponent legitimately reached a low ball before the second bounce. Williams, reacting angrily, advanced towards Sanchez Vicario before making her point more eloquently by capturing a set fiercely contested from the opening point.

Then Sanchez Vicario, who took a 2-0 lead at the start of set two, lost the initiative, dropping the next three games before immediately taking a bathroom break. Previously clad in black, she emerged all in white and the change was not confined to the sartorial. Her mood improved dramatically when, trailing 2-5 and 0-30, she reeled off the next five games to level the match.

Williams's nerve had plainly failed her and it was no surprise when Sanchez Vicario maintained her ascendancy to triumph 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 after 2hr 42sec of an ill-tempered match. More than 100 unforced errors peppered the contest. Sanchez Vicario next plays Patty Schnyder, of Switzerland, who extended her rich vein of form in outclassing Magui Serna, of Spain, 6-1, 6-3.

Simon Barnes, page 31

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Selectors get cold feet about introducing Leicestershire opener for first Test at Edgbaston

England seize on opportunity to bring back Cork

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

THE issue that occupied the England selectors for much of Saturday evening was a choice between opening batsmen, but a decision that took considerably less time will cause far greater interest. Sixteen months after the adjournment of a Test career that had begun spectacularly and subsided into disrepair, Dominic Cork is back.

The Derbyshire captain is in a 12-man party for the first Test against South Africa at Edgbaston and the intention is that he will play. So too, will Mark Butcher, the narrow consensus to open the innings with Michael Atherton after a prolonged debate on the alternative merits of Darren Maddy and Nick Knight.

The predetermined return to Test cricket of Darren Gough, the rejection of two recent regulars in Phil Tufnell and Andy Caddick and the preference for Mark Ealham over Adam Hildrick are significant developments, but all are overshadowed by the recall of Cork.

Provisional selection plans had not anticipated his comeback so early in the summer, but persuasive form, allied to the conviction that the South Africans can be embarrassed by swing, have accelerated the process. Cork's five wickets at Chesterfield on Friday, observed by David Lloyd, the England coach, sealed the deal.

"I am surprised," Cork admitted yesterday, "because I hadn't allowed myself to think I would play in the first game. There has been a lot of talk about it in the last few days, though, and I didn't sleep very much last night."

"David Graveney [the chairman of selectors] phoned me early this morning and I'm just delighted to have my foot back

ENGLAND TEAM

Table with 2 columns: Player (county), Age Tests. Lists players like M.A. Atherton, M.A. Butcher, A.J. Stewart, etc.

the time working in the Derbyshire marketing department. Now, after a period of immense upheaval at the club, he is the captain.

He said that both appointments have helped: "The rest from playing did me a lot of good, allowing me to think things through, focus on what I needed to do. I didn't like being out of the England set-up, but it was probably the best thing."

"The captaincy, too, has helped me a lot, not because I have to think of other people but because a captain has to focus extra hard to avoid neglecting his own game. I've become calmer, more relaxed. On Saturday, for instance, I thought I bowled really well but got caught for 60. I might once have got angry, but I made a joke of it. There's always the next ball, or the next over."

A touch more of the philosophical and a little less of the histrionic would be welcome. Cork has all the attributes to resume an influential role in the England side and if he has taken the childish melodrama out of his game without sacrificing the aggression, so much the better.

England's inclination is to play both all-rounders in the search for consistent, competitive totals. "We have to get more runs from our lower order," Graveney said, and with Cork at No 8, followed by Robert Croft and Gough, the raw material is there.

The preference for Croft over Tufnell, who played every Test in the Caribbean, is no more of a surprise than the shelving of the erratic Caddick. Despite competition from Ed Giddins and Chris Silverwood, Dean Headley survives in the squad, but he is likely to be carrying the drinks.

There is no unspoken omission than Maddy and Graveney acknowledged as much. "The majority of the meeting was devoted to the second opener and it is very hard on both Darren and Nick Knight, but Butcher is in better form now than when he was first picked and we decided his left-handedness could be important."

"Edgbaston's pitch is an unknown quantity, although we do know they have flooded it during preparation, and the first Test is so crucial that we just wondered if it was the right place to blood someone. Maddy, though, will be a fixture in the England team in the future."



Kirsten sets off after playing a leg glance in his century at Bristol yesterday. Photograph: Ben Radford / Allsport

Kirsten displays perfect timing

By Ivo Tennant

BRISTOL (third day of four): the South Africans, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, lead Gloucestershire by 213 runs

FOR Gary Kirsten, batting is once again a joyous art. The South Africa vice-captain made his second century of the match against Gloucestershire, deploying his cover drive to marked effect in an innings that he could determine in his own time. He and his side had much need of some four-day cricket after the rigours of one-day matches in the Texaco Trophy, for there is a more significant encounter to come at Edgbaston later this week.

Kirsten opted to go in first again in spite of having made 125 in the first innings — he was out of form in "the Texaco thing", as he called it, after starting the tour reasonably well — and eschewed any risks. The first Test match is very much on his mind, as it should be. He reached his century off 178 balls with 15 fours and, towards the end of the day, was outscored by Jonny Rhodes, who struck a tremendous half-century off

just 36 balls. For Gloucestershire, Mark Alleyne, Kirsten's opposing captain, made his first century of the season in the morning, a more obdurate but no less impressive affair.

The South Africans did not entirely distinguish themselves yesterday. This was not because they conceded the highest number of extras, 58, of any side to have played Gloucestershire since 1888 — a delightfully quirky statistic — it had much more to do with the reaction of McMillan, who was promoted with a

view to gaining batting practice before the first Test, when Smith, the bowler, attempted to run him out.

Smith fielded a firm defensive shot in his follow-through and shielded at the stumps, succeeding only in hitting McMillan. This in itself was not a particularly clever piece of cricket, because the all-rounder had not moved from his crease. He then advanced down the pitch and peeked. Smith in the chest with his bat. Nigel Plews, one of the umpires, had a word with

McMillan at the end of the over, but the matter will be taken no further.

Gloucestershire had declared 13 runs behind the South Africans' first-innings total, with the partnership between Alleyne and Williams realising 116 in 32 overs. Alleyne, who had made 70 overnight, batted for six hours for his 109, striking 13 fours. He is deserving of more such moments in the team.

Williams, the reserve wicketkeeper, was playing only his 36th first-class match in nine seasons, which is indicative of how frustrating it must be to be included only when Jack Russell is resting, or taking part in Test cricket. For the time being, he does not look like doing much of the latter.

So Williams relinquished his opportunity. His innings of 67, which came off 142 balls and included 12 fours, was not quite his highest in first-class cricket, but it was a worthy performance. He was caught, eventually, at third man when Hayward came on. Most of the South African bowlers had lengthy spells, but there was little in the pitch for any of them. Adams, in particular, had to toil for his one wicket.

BRISTOL SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard table showing runs, wickets, and extras for South Africans and Gloucestershire. Includes batting order and bowling figures.



Butcher: form choice



Maddy: held back

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AXA LEAGUE: WARWICKSHIRE IN SHAMBLES ON AND OFF THE FIELD

Jones the star of latest Lara farce

By Pat Gibson

TAUNTON (Somerset won toss; Somerset 4pts) beat Warwickshire by four wickets

FOR a county that have won seven trophies in five years, Warwickshire were a shambles yesterday. Brian Lara, their captain, turned up too late to play and could only watch like a sulking schoolboy as his side collapsed to 96 all out after Steffan Jones, the Cambridge Blue and Bristol rugby player, took five for one in 19 deliveries.

Warwickshire did pull themselves together in the field to reduce Somerset to 69 for five, but the home team still won with four wickets and more than seven overs to spare, giving their supporters cause for celebration on the day that Ian Botham opened the new £600,000 stand named in his honour.

Lara's latest escapade was the kind of fiasco that Warwickshire must have feared ever since he just managed to get to Edgbaston in time for the start of the season because of confusion over his travel arrangements.

He had gone home to Trinidad last week on a business trip, which seemed a strange thing to do in view of his side's recent performances, and was due back on Saturday night. For some unexplained reason, he did not make his scheduled flight and came on a later plane, which arrived 90 minutes late yesterday morning.

His kit turned up from Birmingham in good time for the match, but Lara, who apparently did not have his

Dominant Law puts Essex on top

By Therasy Petropoulos

ILFORD (Essex won toss; Essex 4pts) beat Northamptonshire by eight wickets

IT WAS just like old times for Essex yesterday, with an innings of individual brilliance from Stuart Law taking them to the top of the Axia League.

Given his supreme record for his county, it is astonishing to recall that, before this match, Law had failed to pass 50 in 11 previous one-day innings this season. He made a mockery of that by finding his most fluent form from the start. His duel with Franklyn Rose, in particular, was a sight to behold, with the West Indian opening bowler being removed from the attack prematurely under the barrage of boundaries struck.

His eighth four — a lofted pull off Kevin Curran — brought up his fifty out of a total of 65 in the tenth over from 34 balls. That was the appetiser for Law, who then launched a vicious assault on Curran, taking three fours off one over and one outrageous six over cover. By the time that he carved Snape to Rob Bailey on the cover boundary, he had scored 83 from 59 balls and Essex had built up an unstoppable momentum.

Darren Robinson is used to playing second fiddle — he has played most of his Essex career in the shadow of Graham Gooch — but he more than did his bit in an opening partnership of 131 with Law on one occasion lifting Snape for an enormous straight six. His innings of 66 from 78 balls appeared thoroughly pe-

destrian by comparison, however.

Given the platform, Nasser Hussain and Ronnie Irani were able to push the ball around at first. Irani was fortunate to survive two straightforward chances in one Snape over — the second to Devon Malcolm, making his first appearance in the Axia League for his new county. Towards the end, though, they too were unfurling boundaries at will as victory became a formality.

That Northamptonshire were able to set Essex anything like a reasonable total on a quick-scoring ground was down to an unbeaten seventh-wicket partnership of 87 between Bailey and Tim Walton, 60 of those coming from the last five overs.

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White puts Yorkshire in control

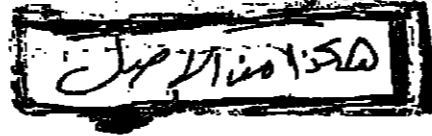
THE PARKS (second day of three): Oxford University, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 154 runs ahead of Yorkshire

ONE of the goals that Gary Palmer has set himself in his first season as Oxford University coach is to reduce what he calls the "mental disadvantage" and to encourage his batsmen to attack the bowling of first-class county opposition (John Stern writes). "A half-volley is a half-volley, whoever is bowling it," he says. Unfortunately, there were one or two from his own attack on Saturday as Yorkshire scored 203 for four before declaring.

Craig White and Michael Vaughan scored half-centuries. White passing 50 for the first time this season. The Yorkshire declaration allowed their bowlers, valuable time in the middle and, by the close, they had taken five Oxford University wickets for 97.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First Innings 280 for 7 dec. Second Innings: D.R. Lockhart c Chapman b Hoggard 4, J.A.M. Miles c Chapman b Hoggard 11, J.P. Clark c Chapman b Vaughan 18, B.W. Byrne c Chapman b Hamilton 24, C.G. Lightfoot not out 24, R. Gendall c White b Vaughan 14, D.J. Eadie not out 3, Extras (fb 2, nb 6) 8. Total (8 wickets) 277. FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-23, 3-61, 4-75, 5-79.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First Innings: A. McGrath b Khan 2, M.P. Vaughan c and b Eadie 59, D. Bates c Lockhart b Eadie 30, C. White c and b Byrne 50, M.J. Wood not out 29, B. Parker not out 23, Extras (fb 3, nb 2) 2. Total (4 wickets dec) 200. FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-21, 3-105, 4-178. BOWLING: Mather 19-3-71-4, Khan 14-5-41-1, Eadie 10-3-31-2, Byrne 9-2-41-1. Umpires: N.G. Cowley and R.A. Hoggard.



PHOTOGRAPHY MAX FORSYTHE

**Spinners
share
spoils of
victory**

BY IAN SPURDIN
COLEDON final day of
New Zealand tour

PAUL HISEMAN, the off-spinning New Zealand bowler, shared the spoils of victory with New Zealand's batsmen on the first day of the first Test. Hiseman took 465 runs in the first two days of the match, all on 44 runs. He also took 44 runs on the fifth day of the match. New Zealand's batsmen scored 140 runs in the first day of the match. Hiseman's bowling figures were 10-0-55-3. The New Zealand batsmen scored 140 runs in the first day of the match. Hiseman's bowling figures were 10-0-55-3. The New Zealand batsmen scored 140 runs in the first day of the match. Hiseman's bowling figures were 10-0-55-3.



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THE 22 PLAYERS CARRYING ENGLAND'S WORLD CUP HOPES IN FRANCE



GOALKEEPERS

David Seaman
Age: 34. Caps: 40.
England's unchallenged No.1. Seaman is regarded alongside Peter Schmeichel as the best goalkeeper in the world. Season with Arsenal was disrupted by a knuckle injury but could be the country's hero again in France if England find themselves involved in penalty shoot-outs.

GOALKEEPERS

Tim Flowers
Age: 31. Caps: 11.
The Blackburn Rovers goalkeeper has fought his way back from an injury that kept him out for the early part of the season and seems to have established himself as Seaman's deputy. Highly capable player who will ensure there is no need for concern if he is called upon.

GOALKEEPERS

Nigel Martyn
Age: 31. Caps: 7.
Appeared to have finally played his way into the 22 with a fine performance against Belgium on Friday. Known as a good shot-stopper, he has had an excellent season with Leeds United but does not command his box as well as Seaman and Flowers.

DEFENDERS

Sol Campbell
Age: 23. Caps: 16.
Hodde made him England's youngest captain for 35 years when he rotated him to lead the team out against Belgium last week. Not the most talkative of players but seems to have shaken off the poor form that afflicted him during the mid-part of the Premiership campaign.

DEFENDERS

Martin Keown
Age: 31. Caps: 17. Goals: 1.
One of the stalwarts of Arsenal's Double-winning team, Keown has gradually become more confident on the ball. Distribution is still a weak point but he is an unforgiving man-marker who may be brought into the starting line-up to nullify a dangerous opponent.

DEFENDERS

Gary Neville
Age: 23. Caps: 27.
Seen by many as a future England captain, the Manchester United defender is the epitome of unfettered reliability. He may start the first game against Tunisia in Marseilles. Can play either at right back, right wing-back or the right-sided member of a back three.

DEFENDERS

Tony Adams
Age: 31. Caps: 51. Goals: 4.
A member of what Hodde is fond of calling the spine of his team, Adams has been given a new lease of life by his continuing recovery from alcoholism and the stewardship of Arsene Wenger at Arsenal. An inspiring leader in defence.

DEFENDERS

Gareth Southgate
Age: 27. Caps: 24.
Recovered from the ignominy of missing that crucial penalty in the semi-finals of the 1996 European Championship with a superb performance against Italy in Rome. Appears to be part of Hodde's first XI but place is under threat from Gary Neville.

DEFENDERS

Rio Ferdinand
Age: 19. Caps: 3.
Looked cultured and assured when he came on in the second half against Belgium and just made it in the final reckoning. He has shown he may have the experience Hodde desires. Playing him means changing the team's way of defending and is one of the brightest hopes.

MIDFIELD

Darren Anderton
Age: 26. Caps: 18. Goals: 5.
Injured almost continuously since the 1996 European Championship but forced his way back into contention in the last three internationals. A Hodde favourite, he is a fine passer of the ball and exponent of one-touch play. Outside chance of displacing Beckham for a place in the starting line-up.

MIDFIELD

David Beckham
Age: 23. Caps: 15.
The best crosser of the ball in the squad, Beckham could play in the centre of midfield if Hodde chooses to play Anderton wide on the right. Gets his big chance now that Gascoigne has been left out.

MIDFIELD

Graeme Le Saux
Age: 29. Caps: 25. Goals: 1.
First choice as left wing-back, he is England's best attacking defender. Some feel he is vulnerable when wingers run at him but he has fought off the challenges of Phil Neville and Andy Hinchcliffe and recovered from the calf injury that kept him out of the Cup Winners Cup final for Chelsea.

MIDFIELD

Robert Lee
Age: 32. Caps: 17.
Played one of the starting roles when England beat Poland in Katowice 12 months ago but place in the squad was put in jeopardy when Anderton emerged from his injury exile. Prefers playing in central midfield but Hodde has used him as a right-sided wing back, too.

MIDFIELD

Steve McManaman
Age: 26. Caps: 21.
Another who was left sweating on his place until the last minute. Many feel he should have been an automatic choice but Hodde seems unable to pin his faith on him and give him the freedom he needs to excel. Fine performer in Euro 96 but has not been at his best for England since Terry Venables left.

MIDFIELD

Paul Ince
Age: 30. Caps: 39. Goals: 2.
The midfield component of the spine, Ince will need to adjust his combative style a little in France because of the more stringent rules on the tackle from behind. Was the perfect foil for Gascoigne but is likely to partner Beckham and David Batty in the centre of the England midfield.

MIDFIELD

David Batty
Age: 29. Caps: 32.
He may also have to temper his aggression if he is to avoid suspension during the tournament. But Hodde has hinted that he has now settled on starting with the Newcastle United player alongside Ince to protect the back three and give England the belching ability they need to spark their counter-attacks.

MIDFIELD

Paul Scholes
Age: 23. Caps: 7. Goals: 3.
Burst on to the international scene during Le Toumoi a year ago and has never looked back. Another rival for what was seen as Gascoigne's position and he could also be used in Teddy Sheringham's role alongside Alan Shearer.

MIDFIELD

Paul Merson
Age: 30. Caps: 18. Goals: 2.
Forced his way into contention for the squad with a good performance in a B international earlier in the year. Rival to McManaman for a place on the right side of midfield, he had a disappointing game against Belgium. Inclusion is a huge reward for a man who is still fighting to overcome his demons.

FORWARDS

Alan Shearer
Age: 27. Caps: 39. Goals: 18.
England's captain and the last of the spine, Shearer seems to be fully recovered from the serious ankle ligament injury that ruled him out for much of the Premiership season. Has endured a miserable time at Newcastle but could be fresher because of his lack of matches.

FORWARDS

Teddy Sheringham
Age: 32. Caps: 33. Goals: 9.
The emergence of Michael Owen has put his first team place under threat but Hodde will almost certainly stick to his guns and begin with him alongside Shearer. Brings the best out of his partner but could be one of the first casualties if things do not go well in the opening game.

FORWARDS

Michael Owen
Age: 18. Caps: 4. Goals: 1.
Has made a strong case for a place in the starting XI with his blistering club form at Liverpool this season. Joint top scorer in the Premiership, he has adjusted easily to international football. Tipped by Cesare Maldini, the Italy coach, as one of the stars of the World Cup.

FORWARDS

Les Ferdinand
Age: 31. Caps: 15. Goals: 5.
Seemingly failed to press his claim for a place during the last game of England's warm-up against Belgium. Has suffered with injuries again this season but despite his absences he has still edged out Dion Dublin.

Scotland's traditional values need fine-tuning

United States 0
Scotland 0

FROM KEVIN MCCARRA IN WASHINGTON

THE CHANTS of a knot of Scotsmen boomed out unchallenged over the RFK Stadium here and taunted the silence of the Americans. Judicious timing explained this complete hold on bragging rights. The locals, who made up almost all of the 46,000 attendance, had left the ground at the end of the goalless draw on Saturday and would not even have understood a desire to linger. Hanging around can be a Scottish virtue, however. The team put together by Craig Brown, the manager, had also shown patience, even if they spoke up for themselves well before the final whistle. Their subdued condition in the first half was a reaction not to the opposition that faced them, but to the enemy that beat them down from above. Even John Collins, who plays with AS Monaco in the south of France, said that he had never taken part in a match conducted in such heat and humidity. The bottles of water thrown to the players were of diminishing benefit because they had been left in the sunshine. One player remarked that, by the end, they were the same temperature as a cup of tea. For a time, the Scots seemed preoccupied with thoughts of the price they would have to pay for each exertion. An exaggerated concern with the conservation of energy set a limit to their effectiveness. The preference for the studied, square pass gave rise to a

stilted display that invited the United States to take the initiative. Steve Sampson's side enjoyed command before the interval and saw Roy Wegerle shoot against the crossbar. Yet in Scotland matches, the fascination lies often in the team's struggle with itself. The players have the enduring difficulty of reconciling a tradition of sporting aggression with an appreciation that international football requires restraint. In the second half, they struck a better balance and would have won had not Kevin Gallacher missed two fine chances. There was, all the same, no inclination to chastise the Blackburn Rovers forward. He had not played since early May and suffered food poisoning in the early part of the American tour. That bout of ill-health cost him five pounds in weight, a significant percentage in a man as slight as Gallacher. It is taken for granted that he will be fully restored by the time of the opening game of the World Cup, against Brazil, on Wednesday week. The nature of the play around him is a more probable cause of pensiveness. Scotland are a side intent on altering their own nature, although the act of stepping out of character can leave them vulnerable. Shedding instincts is arduous work and there have been animated exchanges of opinion among the players. Defenders are being asked to uptight the reflex that sees them thrash the ball clear. Men such as Paul Lambert and John Collins are demanding that they be given possession even when the action is on

the fringes of their penalty area. Both have been affected by their experiences on the Continent, where Lambert won the European Cup with Borussia Dortmund before signing for Celtic. The painstaking construction of moves has increased Scotland's menace. Gallacher's uncharacteristic lapses in front of goal masked the incisiveness, but refinement was still present in Scotland's performance. The re-emergence of an old trait was also comforting. The team had lost six goals in the previous four matches, but stringency in defence was reinstated here. Jim Leighton, the goalkeeper, was authoritative, although he admitted that he feared, at one moment, that he might faint in the heat. Scotland were satisfied with their tour and an attempt at diplomacy by Brown was one of the few initiatives that met with failure. Asked about soccer in the United States, he acknowledged his host's victory over Brazil and claimed that the national team might win the World Cup within his lifetime. "Cee coach, how long are you going to live?" replied the sceptical reporter.

Davies surprised by added value

BY DAVID MADDOCK

KEVIN DAVIES will complete a remarkable episode in his career today when he signs for Blackburn Rovers for £7.5 million. The Southampton forward will complete the formalities of a medical at Ewood Park this afternoon. Only 12 months ago, Davies could scarcely believe that he had earned a move to the South Coast from Chesterfield, of the Nationwide League second division, for £750,000. This time, his astonishment is hardly surprising. The 21-year-old player will sign a seven-year contract that could, with bonuses and signing-on fees, bring him upwards of £8 million. "It is a dream move, and so unexpected," he said yesterday. "Blackburn is such a big club and I'm impressed with the set-up. I will be sad to leave, but this is a good move for me." Rupert Lowe, the Southampton chairman, defended the decision yesterday — if any defence was needed — to sell a player whose value has apparently increased ten-fold in a year. "It was an offer we simply couldn't refuse," he said. "The manager was under no pressure to sell, but he decided it was a good deal and all the money will go on strengthening our squad." David Jones, the Southampton manager, has made approaches for Carmine Esposito, the 27-year-old Empoli forward, and also for Mark Hughes, of Chelsea. Hughes pleaded with his London club yesterday to honour an agreement that would allow him to leave Stamford Bridge on a free transfer. The Wales international forward has one year of his contract still to run, but claims that he was promised a free transfer by Gianluca Vialli, the Chelsea manager. Now, though, it appears that Colin Hutchinson, the Chelsea chief executive, will ask for a fee of £1.5 million, depending on which club is interested in the player. "Vialli told me that if

[Pierluigi] Casiraghi [the Lazio forward who signed last week] came, I would be given a free transfer. I sincerely hope that is still the case," Hughes said. "If it is, then it is a great gesture by Lucas — but I've heard that Chelsea are now saying any fee will depend on which club came in for me. That is totally out of order. How can you ask a fee from one club, but tell another I am free? It is totally unacceptable." Hutchinson was in Paris over the weekend for talks with Marcel



Davies: dream move to Blackburn

Desailly, 29, the France defender, who Chelsea are confident of signing. Manchester United have expressed interest in signing both Dwight Yorke, of Aston Villa, and Alan Thompson, the Bolton Wanderers midfielder player. Alex Ferguson, the United manager, is prepared to pay the £4 million that Bolton are demanding in order to sneak in ahead of Leeds United, Everton and Leicester City. However, he cannot guarantee Thompson first-team football at Old Trafford. With Yorke, the situation is less clear. Ferguson is not prepared to meet the £12 million asking price for a player who is unsettled and has made it clear that he wants to leave Villa Park.

Injury puts Peruzzi out of World Cup

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ANGELO PERUZZI, the first-choice Italy goalkeeper, is to miss the World Cup finals after pulling a calf muscle in training yesterday. The Juventus player, who was injured when jumping for a ball, said: "I'm very upset. Now I'll have to sweat another four years to get to the next World Cup." Gianluca Pagliuca, of Internazionale, becomes the new No 1 goalkeeper, while Francesco Toldo, of Fiorentina, will replace Peruzzi in the squad. "Pagliuca is a great goalkeeper, one of the best in the world," Peruzzi said. "He's sure to do very well in the World Cup." Peruzzi did not play in the 1994 tournament, when Italy were beaten in the final on penalties by Brazil, but he has been an international regular over the past three seasons, winning 22 caps. Three England-based players were in the World Cup squad announced yesterday by South Africa. Two defenders, Lucas Radebe, of Leeds United, and Mark Fish, of Bolton Wanderers, were included, as was Andre Arendse, the Fulham goalkeeper. Also named was Phil Masinga, the former Leeds forward, who plays for Bari, in Italy. Eric Tinkler, the Barnsley midfielder player, was not in contention because of injury. Romario, the Brazil striker, said yesterday that he would be fit to face Scotland in the opening match of the World Cup on June 10. Having maintained a four-day public silence as he struggled with a calf injury, he said: "I have faith in God that I will be available for the coach to pick me if he wants. I can't guarantee that I will be 100 per cent match-fit by then, but I will be fit enough to play." Romario has been unable to train since Brazil assembled earlier this month. He was included in the squad for the 1990 tournament despite not having fully recovered from a broken leg and caused friction in the camp by calling his own physiotherapist. Germany returned to form in Frankfurt on Saturday with an impressive 3-1 win over Colombia, one of England's

first-round opponents, with two goals from Oliver Bierhoff and one from Andy Muller. Carlos Valderrama replied for Colombia with an 87th-minute penalty after Faustino Asprilla was fouled.

"We showed between 70 and 75 per cent of our potential," Bert Vogts, the Germany coach, said. "I have to congratulate my team. I wanted to see a clear improvement from the [goalless] Finland game on Wednesday and I got it. What's important now is that we're in top form [for our opening



Peruzzi: first-choice goalkeeper

Group F game] on June 15 against the United States." Jürgen Kohler, the central defender, became the third member of the present squad to win 100 caps, joining Lothar Matthäus, the record-holder with 124, and Jürgen Klinsmann. Franz Beckenbauer is the only other German to have reached the landmark. "This is a dream come true," Kohler said. "To be among the top footballers in my country makes me very proud." The Borussia Dortmund player is approaching his third World Cup and he added: "I'm looking forward to it. I will try to use my experience to help out the younger players."

J.P. 11/15/98

SPEEDWAY

Ipswich cautious in spite of record

By Tony Hoare

IPSWICH made it a record 17 wins in as many matches with victory in a classic encounter at Coventry on Saturday night...

The Suffolk side's victory put them ten points clear of Eastbourne, in second place, who have ridden two more matches than Ipswich...

Injuries can play a part and riders can go off form, but what we can do is make sure this run lasts as long as possible...

In a thrilling meeting, Coventry produced a battling performance to stay with Ipswich. Nevertheless, despite the presence of Greg Hancock and Billy Hamill...

The scores were level going into the final heat and the large contingent of travelling fans sparked into life when Rickardsson and Gollob beat Hamill and Hancock to secure the points...

Rickardsson scored a brilliant maximum and Gollob reached double figures on his first visit to the Coventry track...

Jeremy Whittle on how a Swiss rider is emerging as favourite for the Tour de France

Zulle ready for final step to greatness

With six weeks until he starts the defence of his Tour de France title in Dublin, Jan Ullrich is involved in a fight against the flab white...

Alex Zulle, of Switzerland, twice the winner of the Tour of Spain, a former world time-trial champion and the runner-up to the great Miguel Indurain in the Tour de France in 1995...

Until last year, Zulle had a reputation for nervousness and was considered to be accident-prone after a series of crashes in important races...

In spite of the attacks of Marco Pantani, the great Italian climber, who crossed the mountain-top finish at Piancavallo first on Saturday...

He has added mental steel to his athletic talents. After winning the Giro prologue time-trial in Nice, he has twice recaptured the leader's pink jersey in the toughest mountain stages to date...

Zulle, 30, lanky and bespectacled, is expected to clinch his first Giro victory next weekend in Milan, providing he survives the mountain stages in the Dolomites in the coming week...

He increased his overall lead to 2min 2sec over Tonkov, who was third yesterday, and remains on course to fulfil the first part of his ambition of achieving the rare Giro-Tour



Zulle is expected to clinch his first Giro d'Italia next weekend having controlled the race so far in masterly fashion

double, which was last captured by Indurain in 1993. All of this may delight the Swiss sports press, but it has prompted French media speculation that Richard Virenque, of France, Zulle's team-mate who was runner-up in the 1997

Tour, might suffer as a result of his arrival at Festina. Yet the news of Zulle's imminent arrival leaked out half-way through the Tour, much to Virenque's surprise. The team promptly launched a damage-limitation exercise...

those with inside experience of both riders. "There's no doubt that Zulle was brought in to win the Tour," Johnny Weltz, manager of the rival US Postal Team, said...

Virenque's subsequent reaction to Zulle's arrival was to bleach his hair an attention-grabbing white, but the harsh truth is that, in his seven-year career, the Frenchman has yet to win a major stage race...

Tellingly, since the Swiss rider joined Festina's impressively talented squad, Bruno Roussel, Zulle's manager, has been more than content with his new signing...

Meanwhile, Ullrich is trying to lose the excess pounds gained during his celebrations and public appearances last winter. The German, 24, has been in a downward spiral of ill-health and poor form this spring...

The Tour champion has completed only a handful of races since February and has had to endure the jibes of the French and German media for most of that time...

O'Grady's aim was to win the stage and put icing on the Prutour cake, but as the leaders swept round the final corner, he pulled his foot out of his pedal lock...

This left another Australian, Jay Sweet, of the BigMat team, to win the stage, his second of the tour, in 1hr 39min 12sec. Chris Lillywhite, of Great Britain, was fourth in the same time, with Boardman, finishing inches behind in eighth to take second place overall.

O'Grady holds on for overall victory

By Peter Bryan

STUART O'GRADY never looked in danger of losing his overall lead yesterday in the final stage of the 695-mile Prutour, thanks not only to his own strength but to the support of his Gan colleagues...

There are not many of the world's top teams where the leader — in this case, Boardman — gives up the overall victory in a race to a younger rider...

The final stage yesterday could have been one of uncertainty with the tight one-mile Holborn circuit covered 50 times. The Gan riders immediately went to the front, taking O'Grady with them...

Mathew Illingworth, of the Britte team, led by 13sec at one point but presented no danger overall. His target was the £1,000 anniversary sprint, in which he was successful, bringing further good cheer to the leading British squad...

O'Grady's aim was to win the stage and put icing on the Prutour cake, but as the leaders swept round the final corner, he pulled his foot out of his pedal lock...

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AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

WIN A VIP TRIP TO SEE ENGLAND v ROMANIA

Plus VIP tickets to World Cup 98 Final

This week's Planet Football show on Channel 4 tomorrow night profiles England's chief rival in their qualifying group, Romania. The two nations come face to face in Toulouse on Monday June 22 in their crucial second match...

WIN VIP TICKETS TO ENGLAND v ROMANIA

For your chance to see England v Romania live, simply answer the following question and call our PLANET FOOTBALL HOTLINE on 0891 300 361. Calls charged at 50p per minute. RoI 1550 122 361. Calls charged at 58p per minute.

Romania's captain Gheorghe Hagi plays club football for the Turkish league champions. Who are they? a) Panathinaikos b) Galatasaray c) Vicenza

The lines are open until midnight on Thursday June 4. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries and contacted by phone on Monday June 8. No cash alternative. Normal TNL rules apply.



PLANET FOOTBALL COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Send this competition entry form with three differently numbered tokens from The Times. Then complete this coupon and send it with your tokens to: The Times/Planet Football/World Cup Competition, PO Box 5071, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7FY to arrive no later than Friday June 19, 1998.

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NEXT MONDAY: WIN VIP TICKETS TO SPAIN v NIGERIA

CHANGING TIMES

End of the line for the rod that captured magical memories

Brian Clarke on the shattering effect of a cast into oblivion

I have many fishing rods, but I have only ever loved three. All were made of cane. One is a Wallis Wizard, the brilliant whole-cane butt, split cane middle-and-top design by F. W. K. Wallis, the legendary Avon barbel fisher...



The splintered remains of the top section of Clarke's prized Constable, left, after the disaster in Dorset

The second rod was a Fario Club, one of the great creations of Charles Ritz, the famous hotelier and, in flyfishing circles, an infinitely more famous designer of trout rods. I bought this 8ft 5in piece of honey-coloured delight with the first royalty cheque from my first book, 23 years ago...

The third rod, a 6ft 9in AFTM4 brook rod, built by Constable, was as light and delicate as a fairy's wand and cast spells as well as lines. It was as crisp and precise as a rapier — and as deadly. It was delivered to me 20 years ago on the occasion of another of those Big Zero birthdays: not so much a present from my wife as the product of a permission to spend serious money...

The late Cliff Constable was one of the finest builders of stripped cane this country has produced and his staggered-ferrule brook rod was his finest achievement. I asked my old friend, Stewart Canham, then manager of Benwoods, in London, master fly-tyer and furnisher of cane rods so exquisite that they would not

have looked out of place in an Asprey's window, to finish the cane for me.

Canham never produced a more personalised thing. All the usual restrained touches were there, from the subtlety of the matt varnish instead of gloss to the near-transparent whippings, tipped with black. But it was the rest, the attention to so much tiny detail, that made the rod truly unique.

When he delivered it, I found Canham had got Constable to autograph the cane to me. A tiny ephemeral nymph, drawn in Indian ink, was crawling up the butt amid the technical specifications. The 20-inch stopper that extended the butt section to the length of the top section for carrying purposes was wound about with ivy, drawn in Indian ink, in-filled with white. And so on and so on.

Last week was Mayfly time in Dorset. A friend invited me down. It was a lovely day, warm and sunny but with — note it — a downstream breeze. May blossom was out. The ranunculus was in flower. Swifts curved and sculpted the air. From time to time, a buzzard appeared intermittently overhead, disdainful of the mobbing crows.

In a sidestream, we saw a fish lying awkwardly under a tree. I slipped under a barbed wire fence and slid into the deep water.

Getting into position was tricky. All the time, the fish went on rising and moving steadily upstream, narrowing the gap between the water and the hanging branches where my fly would have to go. It would take a driven cast, all wrist, to create the tight loop I was going to need. And I

would have to take care with the back cast to avoid the alder that grew over the water behind me.

It must have been on the fourth or fifth attempt that the breeze strengthened. Mid-cast, I took account of it. I tightened the loop still more to cut into it. I applied yet more wrist. I let the final back cast straighten and then drove it forward.

It did not come. There was an odd sensation, impossible to describe, but something, somehow, seemed to grate. In the concentration of the moment, I assumed that I had snagged the alder. I have snagged trees a thousand times. I did not bother to turn. I flicked the rod again, expecting either the fly to come free or the branch to give and cushion the movement. I have done that and seen that a thousand times, too.

Nothing. No give. Absolutely no give, but again a grating feeling and this time a sound. I turned and instinctively looked for my line and fly. The line was well clear of the alder and to the right. The fly was on the barbed wire fence that I had forgotten about. My eyes followed the line back from the fence to my rod. I saw the oddity of an angle in the silken curve, two rings back from the tip. I saw the cane splintered and light shining through the long, long fibres.

For a long time, I could not take it in. I suppose the realisation of what I was seeing, the pain of it, was somehow dulled, the way that the shock of an injury sometimes is. All the things I had loved about the rod, how I had come to own it, scores of magic moments I had experienced with it, tumbled through my mind. Mike, my friend, said I was two minutes before I spoke. I simply stood there uncomprehending, staring at one of the three or four things I treasured most in the world now utterly ruined.

We have all known such moments, but that gives no comfort. It was — it is — terrible.

Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

O'Grady holds on for overall victory

STUART O'GRADY never looked in danger of losing his overall lead yesterday in the final stage of the six-mile triathlon...

Rugby League: Farrell's guiding hand and boot lead Wigan to comfortable Super League victory

Hull come down to earth after good start

Hull Sharks 16 Wigan Warriors 38. The initial euphoria of two opening wins by Hull Sharks in the JJB Super League...



Betts is sandwiched by two Hull defenders as Wigan march to a straightforward win at the Boulevard yesterday

Gregory suffers in stands as Salford stumble

CASTLEFORD Tigers conceded two early tries before rallying to secure a deserved 18-8 victory away to Salford Reds yesterday...



Mather: helped recovery

rod that mories

Fragment of text on the far left edge of the page.

Murphy receives his big break

A BOY aged 15 is to become Great Britain's youngest professional snooker player. Shaun Murphy has been granted special dispensation to join the game's elite band of 192 players...

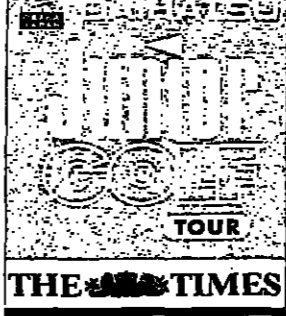
Palmer declines Royal invitation

PAUL PALMER revealed yesterday that he has no time for the Queen. However, the Olympic silver medal-winner, who had just finished runner-up in the 400 metres freestyle at the Speedo British grand prix final in Sheffield...

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES. 0171-782 7344. Includes sections for Public Notices and Legal Notices with various legal advertisements.

Juniors drive standards higher

THEY keep getting better and better. Seven weeks after the opening shots were hit in the 1998 season, at least one event has been staged in all four divisions of the Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour (JGT)...



day with little wind and intermittent showers, Carl Gordon, a member of Silloth-on-Solway, made his journey from Carlisle worthwhile with victory on 73. After turning in 37, a succession of dropped shots looked to have ruined his chances...

DANCE SPORT

Young stars announce their arrival at summit

By Ruth Gledhill

THE Open British, the world's highest-ranking championships, came to an exciting climax at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool when Chris Hawkins and Hazel Newberry, the youngest and newest England professional couple, finished in third place in a fast and exhilarating quickstep.

Hawkins, 24, and Newberry, 23, both from London, did not make the final six in the other three dances of waltz, foxtrot and tango, but their achievement in finishing ahead of Augusto Schiavo and Caterina Arzenton, of Italy, ranked No 3 in the world, and Andrew Sinkinson and Charlotte Jorgensen, another English pair, who are world-ranked No 4, had shrewd judges tipping them as future world champions.

The championship was won for the seventh time by Marcus and Karen Hilton, from Rochdale, who produced another glittering and immaculate performance that had the crowd on their feet. The excitement was enhanced by the powerful challenge from Luca and Lorraine Baricchi, from London, who were placed second in all four dances.

However, Hawkins and Newberry were the centre of attention and the scene is set for future battles between them and Timothy Howson and Joanne Bolton, the other young contenders for pole position. The High Wycombe couple made the finals of two dances, waltz and foxtrot, knocking out Fabio Selmi and Simona Fancello, of Italy, but were placed sixth in both.

Hawkins, who had to dance through seven rounds over eight hours, from 4pm until past midnight, said: "Hazel and I danced as well as we could possibly dance. I was delighted to make a final on my first ever professional British. It was tough doing seven rounds, but I am delighted." Yet while Robert Grover, of the Imperial Society, Hawkins' coach, congratulated his pupil, he also criticised him and demanded more. "I have been telling him the quickstep is the opening," he said. "Now we have got to get the other three dances as good as the quickstep."

Hawkins and Newberry, last year's world amateur champions, who teamed up in 1992, winning the open British youth championship and tak-



Hawkins and Newberry show the style at Blackpool that promises a successful career. Photograph: Peter Lomas

ing every important amateur title at least once, are renowned for the speed and elegance of their dancing, for their floorcraft and for their imaginative choreography.

At Blackpool, they made innovations such as including the "chase" from the tango in their quickstep and using "forward swivels" in their foxtrot. They also executed the difficult moves of six-beat spins in one direction, swinging smoothly into the same figure in reverse.

England had scored another victory the day before, when Alan and Donna Shingler, repeated runners-up to Hawkins and Newberry in the amateur ranks, won their first Open British title by winning the amateur championship by just one mark from William Pino and Alessandra Bucciarelli, of Italy.

Since Olympic recognition was granted last year, dance sport has become faster and more aggressive and some

coaches are concerned that the traditional elegance and floorcraft that are associated with ballroom dance are disappearing.

During the professional championships, feathers flew, along with shoes, earrings and rhinestones, as competitors collided with each other or landed stiletos and ankles during the fast and frenetic action. With 340 couples battling for just six

final places, some couples were knocked over and there were 170 cases of dancers requiring first-aid treatment.

At one point, the action became so aggressive that Bill Irvine, the floor chairman, who is the world championship record-holder with 13 titles to his name, said: "Some things get better over the years, but floorcraft has become abominably bad. I think this sport needs steel helmets and airbags."

RUGBY UNION

Metcalf provides timely lift for Scots

Ireland lose Topping for rest of the tour

Victoria 13
Scotland 42

Boland 35
Ireland 48

By Our Sports Staff

By Our Sports Staff

SCOTLAND put their tour of the southern hemisphere firmly back on track in Australia on Saturday with a comprehensive victory over Victoria at Olympic Park, although they were flattered by a scoreline that disguised several shortcomings.

After running in six tries in the first hour, the Scotland scoring dried up. Nevertheless, having lost to Fiji last Tuesday, they were happy enough to record a victory.

"A win was what we needed," Rob Wainwright, the Scotland captain, said, while criticising his side for losing concentration late in the game. "We showed the now typically Scottish trait in the last quarter. With all due respect to Victoria, lapses like this in the last 20 minutes would cost us dear against better sides."

Glenn Metcalf, the full back, scored two tries in a fine performance that earned him the man-of-the-match award and confirmed that his move from the wing six months ago has paid off. "At full back, I've got the room to move about, create chances and score tries," he said.

Alan Bulloch, Rowen Shepherd, Cameron Mather and Duncan Hodge, the fly half, also touched down for Scotland. Hodge, with three conversions and two penalties, collected 17 points and is the top scorer on the tour, which continues tomorrow with a game against a New South Wales Country XV.

Shepherd, the former Scotland full back, will be at inside centre again for the match and will play outside Gregor Townsend, who will be at fly half. Jim Telfer, the Scotland coach, said: "We are trying out the combination of Townsend and Shepherd. We have a fair idea of the international side, but there are some areas about which we are not sure."

SCOTLAND: Victoria: Try: Fraser; Conversion: J Goodman; Penalty goals: J Goodman 2; Scotland: Tries: G Metcalf 2, A Bulloch, R Shepherd, C Mather, D Hodge; Conversions: D Hodge 3; Penalty goals: D Hodge 2.

SCOTLAND: G Metcalf (Glasgow Hawks); A Bulloch (West of Scotland); D O'Brien (Dumfries); R Shepherd (Melrose); C Joiner (Leicester); D Hodge (Watsonians); G Burns (Watsonians); P Wright (West of Scotland); S Bothastone (Melrose); M Stewart (Northampton); R Metcalf (Newcastle Falcons); S Grimes (Watsonians); C Mather (Watsonians); S Reid (Boroughmuir); G Simpson (Kilcady); Referee: G Ayoub.

SCOTLAND XV (v New South Wales Country XV, tomorrow): D Lee (London Scottish); H Gilmour (Heriot's FP); C Murray (Hawick); Shepherd, Jones; G Townsend (Dumfries); Burns; G McWhirter (Glasgow Hawks); K McKenzie (Stirling County); Stewart; S Jammy (Dumfries); S Campbell (Dumfries HSFP); R Wainwright (Dumfries HSFP, captain); Simpson; S Holmes (London Scottish).

A WINNING start for Ireland in Wellington on their tour of the southern hemisphere was overshadowed by injuries to James Topping, the right wing, and Jonathan Bell, the centre.

Topping, whose two tries set the Irish on their way to victory on Saturday, cracked a bone in his shoulder and will miss the rest of the tour. Darah O'Mahony was summoned to take his place yesterday, although it transpired last night that the Moseley player was unfit to travel after sustaining an injury during a Sevens tournament in Spain last week.

Bell, meanwhile, strained a hamstring and Donal Lenihan, the team manager, said that his future was uncertain. "It is a 50-50 situation. The first two days are the worst, I'm told," Lenihan said. "We will only know by Wednesday whether Jonathan will be able to play again on tour."

Dion O'Cuinnseagáin, Denis Hickie, Conor O'Shea and Conor McGuinness also claimed tries and the Irish were grateful for the book of Eric Elwood, who converted all six tries and added two penalty goals. It was Elwood at his best and the Irish needed him, particularly in the second half, when they came under pressure after building a 24-7 half-time lead.

"I was pleased with the effort we put in today and fairly happy with our result—it was important to get this tour off to a good start," Paddy Johns, the Ireland captain, said. "Some of the lads haven't played for four weeks and we are a bit rusty, but it was a good start as Boland were very physical and were a good test for us."

"I thought we tackled reasonably well but we have to improve to stand any chance against the Springboks."

Ireland play South Western Districts at George on Wednesday.

SCOTLAND: Boland: Tries: Beuler 2, Gosson, Hendricks, Barton, Conventions; O'Neill 3; Ireland: Tries: Topping 2, Hickie, McGuinness, O'Cuinnseagáin, O'Shea; Conversions: Elwood 5; Penalty goals: Elwood 2.

IRELAND: C O'Shea (Lansdown Hill); J Topping (Bathurst); ref: K Magee (Bathurst); J Bell (Northampton), rep: K Keene, Garryowen; M McCall (London Irish); D Hickie (St Mary's College); E Elwood (Galwegians); C McGuinness (St Mary's College); V Costello (St Mary's College); A West (Bathurst); rep: Y Brennan (St Mary's College); J O'Cuinnseagáin (Bathurst); G Flaherty (London Irish); P Johns (Saracens); P O'Leary (Young Munster); A Clarke (Northampton); R Conigan (Greystones); rep: J Hayes, Shannon; 43.

Enthusiast helps to bring fives alive at state school

By John Goodbody

FIVES is a sport readily associated with independent schools. Eton, Rugby and Winchester all have their own versions, whose origins are centuries old and fashioned by being played against the walls of their historic buildings.

Curiously, when Stoke Newington School, a state comprehensive, was built in North London in the 1960s, six outdoor fives courts, with floodlights, were put up in one corner. No one knows why. It is believed that the first headmaster wanted something different for his school, but, for more than 30 years, no one played fives because there was no one to coach it. Instead, the courts were used for football.

Last September, everything changed. Linda Richardson, the incoming head of PE, was contacted by Howard Wiseman, who runs a fives coaching agency. He had been hunting down redundant courts and had just discovered

two at the City of Norwich Comprehensive School, which had not known what they were, and had written to a sports historian. Wiseman offered to coach fives during the first week of the autumn term to all 800 pupils at Stoke Newington as part of their PE classes. The school is less than a mile from Highbury, the home ground of Arsenal, the winners of the FA Carling Premiership and FA Cup double, and most of the pupils are obsessed with football.

Richardson said: "People thought that introducing fives was a good idea, but they were doubtful whether it would work simply because it wasn't football. However, the gover-



nors, head and parents were hugely supportive, and, by the end of the week, 60 pupils had signed up for a term's tuition." Almost all have continued with the sport.

Richardson added: "It has become an instant success. Pupils can play at break and lunchtime. Even some of the keen footballers are enthusiastic."

Wiseman, who learnt the game at St Olave's, Orpington, Kent, and has retained a fervent interest in the game, said: "Fives is good for relieving stress because you are undertaking a serious assault on the ball."

By running a professional coaching agency, Wiseman ensures that the problems of a

sport collapsing in a school, should, for example, a keen master in charge leave, can be overcome.

Stoke Newington was welcomed by the independent schools, particularly St Paul's, which allowed the newcomers to use its courts for an indoor tournament last winter. In the ten matches of their first year of the sport, Stoke Newington were only beaten by St Paul's and Tonbridge.

In particular, Sheuneen Ta, 12, has shown such outstanding form that she was seeded No 1 in the singles in the national under-13 boys championships. Although beaten in the third round, she reached the final of the doubles. A member of Arsenal Ladies Under-13s, she said: "I play every time I can — when I'm not playing football."

Her usual partner is Danny Mattis, 13, a Watford youth footballer. He said: "Fives is something new to get into. I will definitely be playing next year."



Sheuneen Ta showed her fives talent by reaching the third round of the national under-13 boys' singles event



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Ireland lose Topping for rest of the tour

Boiard 35
Ireland 48
BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

A WINNING start for Ireland in Wellington on their tour of the southern hemisphere was overshadowed by injuries to James Topping, the right wing, and Jonathan Bell, the centre.

Topping, whose two tries set the Irish on their way to victory on Saturday, cracked a bone in his shoulder and will miss the rest of the tour. Darah O'Mahony was summoned to take his place yesterday, although it transpired last night that the Moseley player was unfit to travel after sustaining an injury during a seven-day tournament in Spain last week.

Bell means the Ireland manager said that his future was uncertain. "It is a 50-50 situation. The first two days are the worst, I'm told," Linnihan said. "We will only know by Wednesday whether Jonathan will be able to play again or not."

Dion O'Connell, Denis Hickie, Conor O'Leary and Conor Murray also claimed their share of the limelight. O'Connell was the star of the first two games, scoring 14 points and kicking 10 goals. Murray, who had scored 10 goals in the first two games, kicked 10 goals in the third game.

O'Connell's performance was crucial in the first two games, scoring 14 points and kicking 10 goals. Murray, who had scored 10 goals in the first two games, kicked 10 goals in the third game.

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David Powell tracks down an athlete enjoying a new field of vision Ladejo counts on the perfect ten

The first question to Duaine Ladejo had to be: "Why are you doing it?" Why is the European 400 metres champion, the athlete who ended Roger Black's eight-year reign as the continental title-holder, using the tools of the decathlon to dismantle his link with the event that made him wealthy and famous?

Now that it is clear Ladejo's stated intent to switch to the decathlon was not just another of his many stunts, there should be no doubting his earlier assertion that he will not defend his European crown this summer. "Good riddance," he said. "I will be glad to get rid of that title."

Ladejo insisted that will never race the 400 metres again, except as the fifth event of the decathlon. "It is over," he said. So, back to the original question. How could he give it all up?

"I was so unhappy doing the 400," he said. "It came easily, but it was not satisfying, not what I wanted. I remember sitting in a restaurant in Helsinki after the European championship. My family was there, my girlfriend had flown over and there were 16 people at the table drinking champagne, but I was sitting there, not smiling. I was not satisfied."

"I was persuaded into being a 400 metres runner when I was at the University of Texas. As my athletics career parried out, I always seemed to be doing somebody else's dream. But the first thing I remember about athletics is Bruce Jenner winning the 1976 Olympic decathlon. I have always wanted to do the decathlon."

Sceptics — and Ladejo has encountered many over the years — should be informed that this is not selective memory at work. When he won the European indoor title in 1996, Ladejo was quoted recalling the impact of Jenner's triumph.

In his youth, Ladejo excelled at many sports. Alison, his sister, recalled some years ago how, at Medina High School, Ohio, he had helped the track team to the state finals. "He did the triple jump, long jump, high jump — everything," she said.

"The decathlon has revived me," Ladejo says now. "It is so satisfying, trying to bend my mind around throwing the shot an extra two metres, balancing strength and technique, and I love the stats." Even if the statistics, in Ladejo's case, stop at 7,635 points.

His score from his second decathlon, having failed to complete his first, represents a comedown. The 400 metres champion of Europe is ranked no higher than twelfth among British decathletes in the post-Daley Thompson era. However, once the technical disciplines have been sharpened, Ladejo believes that he will be up towards 8,500 points "within two or three years". That is world-class scoring.

Bruce Longden, who coached Thompson and Sally Gunnell to Olympic gold, now guides Ladejo. "Crude, to say the least," was Longden's assessment of the athlete's effort in Arles last weekend, "but the main thing was that he finished ten events and enjoyed it. In fact, he loved it, which means he comes back for more."

Ladejo was back in action within a week, finishing seventh in the long jump and fifth in the 110 metres



Rising to the challenge: Ladejo broadens his horizons at the Bedford Games on Saturday. Photographs: Simon Brooke-Webb

hurdles at the Bedford Games on Saturday. The satisfaction came in a personal best — 14.79sec — for the hurdles. "I cannot begin to tell you how delighted I am with that," Ladejo said. "I do not expect to win anything at the moment, but I will soon."

The hurdles in Arles was one effort that fell into Longden's "crude" category. "He realised three steps from the first hurdle that he was going to arrive on the wrong leg," Longden said. "He chopped, jumped it and then sprinted down in 14.83sec."

If Ladejo's 1,500 metres was run with an absurdly fast first lap — 61sec — and his throws and jumps

were raw, Longden saw potential. "Having messed up the first lap of the 1,500, it took guts to run 4min 28sec and he showed he can be a good competitor, like Daley, in all events," Longden said.

Five days before Arles, Ladejo received official word that he is less valuable as a decathlete than as a 400 metres runner. His funding through the National Lottery had been cut, he said, from £890 a month to £200. He has also lost, he said, "well over £100,000 a year" in endorsements.

Changed days from Ladejo the rich whizz-kid. On the back of his 400 metres triumph, he hosted *Duaine's World*, a 12-part series of what shows for LWT. Hardly a woman journalist writing about him (and there were many) failed to mention his sex appeal.

Ladejo went from one stunt to the next — and 1996 was a vintage year. He dyed his hair gold four months before the Olympic Games, saying that he was a gold-medal contender and that Michael Johnson could be beaten. He was reprimanded by the British Athletic Federation for belittling an opponent in a match against France and, after the finest 400 metres race witnessed in Great Britain, he offended Black, the winner in a national record, by saying that his record would not last long.

"He has a changed outlook, is more relaxed and he has turned into a first-class guy," Longden said. Whether Ladejo will become a first-class decathlete remains open to question. Either way, he will have fun trying. "The decathlon is full of surprises," he said. Rather like the man himself.

Wilkins confirms record form

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE 1997 season was drawing to a close and Great Britain had not long finished licking their wounds from the world championships in Athens. Then something odd happened. A moment that should have excited the sport went largely ignored.

Perris Wilkins had left his home in Banbury for a small meeting in Crawley. In discomfort with a hernia, he seemed hardly ready for the discus throw of his life. "I was going to have one throw and see how it went," he reflected.

What harm could it do? He was due to undergo an operation the following month, so he spared no effort. When the implement landed, to the astonishment of all, Wilkins had broken the British record.

However, as Michelle Smith, the Ireland swimmer, discovered at the Atlanta Olympic Games, when improvement comes suddenly, tongues wag. Wilkins had failed to make the Britain team for the world championships, had never won a national medal and had never won anything more important than the Oxfordshire title.

From being a 56-metres thrower at the start of the season, the man from Banbury Harriers, a Midland League second division club, was up, suddenly, to 65.22 metres. However, a discus had landed on his head, metaphorically speaking.

"Some of the throwers I displaced were negative," Wilkins said. "Instead of saying it was great for British discus throwing, it was a case of: 'He must be taking steroids'."

Banbury became a favourite hit town for the drug-testers. "I was

tested twice before the record, then six times after," Wilkins, 29, said. Officially drug-free, he is holding firm to his position as the thrower to beat.

At the Bedford Games on Saturday, Wilkins maintained his unbeaten record this season. Yet, he is not so presumptuous as to suggest that he should be selected ahead of Bob Weir for Britain's defence of the European Cup this month.

Weir was runner-up last season. "I would expect Robert to be chosen above me," Wilkins said. His priority is to become the first Englishman to win the Commonwealth title, in Kuala Lumpur in September.

Wilkins said that his improvement followed his decision to train harder. "My technique used to be hit-and-miss and I was not well-conditioned," he said. Hard work, no drugs. His testing record is his evidence.

ROWING

Redgrave defeat casts long shadow

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL
IN MUNICH

THE Great Britain team ended the Munich World Cup Regatta with three medals, seven medals in non-World Cup events, second place to Germany in the 32-nation league (which gave them £2,827 in travel-related prize-money) and yet celebrations appeared to be muted.

The reason was the defeat of the coxless four, the first for Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent in a world event since 1990. It was clear on Friday that Romania, who were highly-respected by Jürgen Gröbler, the Britain coach, could be a problem. Gröbler switched the positions of Redgrave and Luka Grubor, the replacement for the injured Tim Foster, before the final yesterday.

"The plan was to try and live with them until half-way and we could not do it," Pinsent said. The Britons paid the price and finished fourth.

Pinsent and Redgrave made no excuses. "The quality of crews we are up against this year is a different kettle of fish from 1997. We needed an excellent row to win and we had a bad one," Pinsent said.

Redgrave added: "There is a small line between a good crew and an average one. Today, we were average."

Foster, who is undergoing treatment at Lilleshall, could be available for reselection for the World Cup finals in Lucerne in July.

It was left to Britain's women to take the initial World Cup plaudits. Cath Bishop and Dot Blackie won the gold medal and remain unbeaten in the coxless pairs this year. The Anglo-Scottish pair did not need to produce their usual acceleration, having their main rivals, Russia and the United States, well under control.

The new women's lightweight double of Jane Hall and Tracy Langlands seemed to be working. Hall, the stroke, a world championship singles finalist last year, kept the rhythm smooth and they finished comfortably in second place behind Andersson and Helleberg, of Denmark, the world silver medal-winner in 1997.

Guin Batten completed the World Cup medals for Britain with a bronze in the single sculls in a high-class field that included two former world champions, Hansen, of Denmark, and Brandin, of Sweden. Batten moved through from fifth to third in the middle 1,000 metres, taking the scalp of Brandin for the first time. In the men's singles, Greg Searle finished eighth.

Results, page 38

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SUMMER EIGHTS COMPLETE CHART

Table with columns for event, crew, and time. Includes events like 1000m, 2000m, 4000m, etc.

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It's a growing sport that's changing our coastline. Victoria Walker has her first beach volleyball lesson

Sand, speed and skill

You do not have to be beautiful to play beach volleyball, but an awful lot of players are. Bronze skin and a long, lean, powerful body are obviously what you get if you spend a lot of time in the sun running, jumping and diving on sand. But the sport is not about *Baywatch*-style glamour. It is a recognised Olympic event practised by dedicated athletes.

Scores of players will be competing in the 1998 Speedo British Beach Volleyball Grand Prix. The six-round series kicks off in Tenby on June 6-7. The second leg is played a fortnight later in Poole, with the entourage decamping for Bournemouth for the third round on July 4-5. Margate hosts the fourth round on the weekend of July 18-19, and the fifth will be played in Weymouth two weeks later on August 1-2. The final will be held on the sands at Cleethorpes on August 15-16.

The players will be battling for a pot of prize money totalling about £6,000. Last year's winners of the men's title, Chris Eaton and Grant Furse, are the favourites for this year's Series, though it is believed that the Olympic coach, Vince Joyce, and his partner, Richard Doherty, will give them a hard fight. Favourites for the ladies' title are the Olympic pair Audrey Cooper and Amanda "Mo" Glover.

I went to Bournemouth for a leg of last year's Salon Selectives Grand Prix Series to see what all the fuss was about. Venturing tentatively on to the beach, I headed towards my first encounter with beach volleyball athletes and enthusiasts, looking and feeling as self-conscious and unfit as a classic beach nerd waiting for some bully to kick sand into my face.

Six courts, plus a come-and-try-it court for the uninitiated and willing, played host to the 48 competitors. A grandstand next to centre court housed nearly 500 spectators, and many more crowded along the railings near the pier, stoically enduring miserable weather. Although at times subdued by rain and frequently shivering, the crowd nevertheless stood its ground, reluctant to leave the displays of athletic and tactical prowess that were the feature of each game.

It was in front of this audience that my coach, Simon Golding, decided that I should have my first volleyball lesson. The come-and-try-it court was full of keen novices and there seemed to be a bit of time on centre court before the start of the ladies' final.

It was like playing football for the first time in front of a packed Wembley stadium before a Cup final, or perhaps tennis at Wimbledon's Centre Court as a patriotic crowd impatiently awaits the arrival of Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski.

I thought it seemed very cruel, but did as I was told for I knew I was in good hands. Golding, 31, a full-time sports lecturer at Brockenhurst College in the New Forest, is an accomplished volleyball coach — he coached the British Atlanta Olympics beach volleyball team for two years. He has played volleyball for 11 years, switching to the beach game about seven years ago — for at 21 he is apparently too short for the indoor game.

Golding showed me the three basic moves: the dig, the set and the spike. The dig is achieved by placing one palm over the other and bringing the thumbs together to achieve a solid two-handed base. This can be used to hit the ball up high so that your partner can position it for a set or to save the ball from hitting the ground from an opponent's smash.

Setting the ball is a controlled two-handed volley into the air close to the net in preparation for the spike. Spiking the ball simply involves jumping high into the air and smashing it to the ground in your opponents' court.

My coach made it look a great deal easier than it was. It was hard to walk in soft sand, let alone run or jump. The agility of the professional competitors across such a surface, however, drew gasps from the crowd. The pairs were able to cover most of the court by working closely together, calling "Outside" or "Where are you going?"

During services, players at the net also signalled behind their backs to their partners, indicating which part of the net they intended to block so that the server could play around them.

It is the tactical complexities of the game that attract many people. Georgina Poulton, 19, switched to beach volleyball after having played the indoor game for three years. "You have to have a good brain and be able to think on your feet," she says.

The sport enjoys enormous popularity abroad, but it is only since its inclusion in the 1996 Olympic Games that it has had much publicity in Britain. Audrey Cooper, 33, and Amanda Glover, 28, represented Britain in Atlanta, finishing a respectable ninth out of 18 competitors. Training for the Games, however, was far from ideal. Summer evenings were spent at an outdoor man-made court at Ruislip, West London, and weekends saw the women commuting to Weymouth with their coach Vince Joyce, 37. With no indoor facility in Britain, Cooper and

Glover were forced to travel to the Netherlands during the winter to train on sand.

Cooper's dedication is without question. "We are hoping to qualify for the Sydney Olympics and I am thinking about giving up work to train for it," she says. "There is no other team working as well as playing." She hopes the increased popularity of the sport will encourage someone to open an indoor facility. Speaking also for her team-mate, Mo Glover, she adds: "We would base ourselves wherever an indoor court was located."

Not only is there a sorry lack of indoor beach volleyball courts in Britain, visitors have expressed surprise at the lack of facilities and fixed courts on the beaches around the nation.

Jorge Williams from Colombia was delighted to play on the come-and-try-it court at the Bournemouth tournament.

"We like to play all the time at home," he says, and I do not doubt him for nearly two coach loads of fellow Colombian tourists crammed onto the court to play no matter what.

British-born but Californian-bred twins, Steve and Darren Gable, 24, also expressed dismay at the lack of volleyball courts on British beaches. The coastlines of their childhood were dotted with volleyball posts "as far as the eye could see", and Britain's bleaker beaches are proving to be a bit of a culture shock. Nevertheless, the sport has a growing following in this country. Weymouth has been hosting tournaments for the past 15 years and boasts a permanent court throughout the summer.

Its organisers, Steve Allgood and Graeme Sawyer, also run a Tuesday night club for all levels from beginners to professionals. They would like to see people playing on the beaches every night, whatever the weather, and are confident that this may still happen because of its increasing popularity. Some spectators at the Bournemouth tournament showed how easy it is to improvise, as a group seated on the sand knocked a ball to each other over a metal crash barrier.

As interest in the sport grows, our coastline will have much more to offer beach-lovers than gazing out to sea in a deckchair.



Sand kings and queens: action from the British Beach Volleyball Grand Prix at Cleethorpes and, right, Amanda "Mo" Glover of the British Olympic team

INDOOR volleyball, invented in 1895 by William Morgan at a Massachusetts YMCA, is played with two teams of six players on a hard court measuring 18m x 9m and divided by a raised net. The net is 2.43m high for men and 2.24m for women. The ball is a size five football (about the same size as a netball), although smooth and perhaps a little lighter. Beach volleyball shares the same rules and dimensions, though teams are limited to two players. The sand makes it safer to dive for shots (and thus a more spectacular sport to watch), but more gruelling.

First played along the coastline of Santa Monica, California, in the Twenties, beach volleyball quickly became popular throughout the United States and Europe. In Brazil, it is second only to football in terms of spectator appeal and far exceeds soccer in the number of people who play. It is hugely popular in Australia, America and Cuba. But even Norway, Sweden and Japan have high world-ranking teams.

All of the top players are professional athletes and the sport boasts several millionaires. Last year's top male and female players, Emanuel Rego and Sandra Pires (both from Brazil), earned US\$159,000 (about £97,500) and US\$117,000 respectively in prize money. Sponsorship and endorse-

ments inevitably boost the players' earning potential. The American Sinjin Smith, whose team ranking was eight last year, earns about US\$500,000 a year. Britain's top players, Audrey Cooper, and Amanda Glover, who, before Cooper was injured last year, had a team world ranking of 14, enjoy nothing like the earning power of their rivals. Most of their money is ploughed back into air fares to tournaments.

Rules, rewards and rivals



Beach volleyball players display their athletic prowess at Bournemouth

HOW TO GET STARTED

EQUIPMENT
You will need a beach or an expense of sand measuring at least 12x9 metres. A net and poles cost about £100 and size five football from about £11.

CLUBS
There are an increasing number of beach volleyball clubs dotted around the country, including Weymouth and Bournemouth, as well as tournaments in areas such as Cleethorpes and Bridlington. Many indoor volleyball clubs also play beach volleyball, so it is worth contacting local indoor clubs too.

INFORMATION
The English Volleyball Association has produced a fact sheet to advise on equipment, clubs and contacts nationwide, as well as competitions and the rules of the game.

English Volleyball Association,
27 South Road, West Bridgford,
Nottingham, NG2 7AG
(0115-981 6324).

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Michael Courtney is one of the most resourceful dummy players in the game. Have a look at this hand, reported by the distinguished Australian player and writer Dick Cummings.

Dealer East E-W Game + 90 Rubber Bridge

♠ KQJ75
 ♥ A75
 ♦ 532
 ♣ 88
 ♠ A104
 ♥ J8863
 ♦ A.J74
 ♣ 10

W N E S
 — — 1H 5C
 — — All Pass

Contract: Five Clubs Doubled, by South. Lead: four of hearts.

Courtney won the heart lead in hand. His problem was that he did not have enough entries to dummy to ruff out the ace of spades and then reach the two spade winners. But at trick two he advanced the jack of clubs, and from my experience of playing against him I'd say that was around three seconds after he had taken the king of hearts.

West took the queen of clubs and continued with a second heart, won in dummy with the ace. Courtney played the king of spades from dummy, ruffed East's ace and re-entered dummy with the nine of clubs to cash two more spade tricks. Finally he led up to the king of diamonds to make his contract. Cummings' report ends with antipodean vigour: "Blimey Charlie, to beat the contract West had to let the club jack win at trick two". Then declarer eventually has to lose three diamond tricks.

Notice that if Courtney had won the first heart in dummy and played the king of spades, after he had ruffed away East's ace West would have been much more aware of the entry problems, and ducking the jack of clubs would have been an easier play to find.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Shirov leads

Contrary to pre-match predictions Alenzi Shirov has taken the lead at the halfway stage in his match against Vladimir Kramnik to decide the challenger to Garry Kasparov later this year. Shirov won a hard-fought victory in game four and then fended off Kramnik's efforts to equalise the score in game five. Here is Shirov's win.

White: Alenzi Shirov
Black: Vladimir Kramnik
Candidates Final,
Game 4, Casoria 1998

30 Re8 Kg7
 31 Rf8 Bb6
 32 Rb7 Rd1+
 33 Kc2 Rb2+
 34 Kc3 Bg1
 35 g4 Bb2
 36 g5 h5
 37 Kf4 Bb4
 38 Kc5 Kf6
 39 Bc4 Kc5
 40 Rd7+ Ke4
 41 Rb7+ Re5
 42 Bf1 Rf2
 43 Bf3 Rf8
 44 Bc6 Bf1
 45 Rd7 Rf1+
 46 Kc6 Rg1+
 47 Kf7 Rg7+
 48 Kc8 Rd7
 49 Kc7 Bc3
 50 Kc5 Kc5
 51 Bg6 Be1
 52 Kc6 Bf2+
 53 Kc6 Kc6
 54 a5 Kc7
 55 b4 Kc8
 56 b5+ Kc5
 57 b6 Kc4
 58 b7 Bg3
 59 Kc6 Bf2+
 60 Kc8 Ba7
 61 a6 Na8
 62 Bc4 Bc3
 63 Bf1 Bc3
 64 Bf1 Bc3

Black resigns

Diagram of final position

1 2 3 4 5
 Kramnik + + + 0 + 2
 Shirov + + + 1 + 3

In the above table, 1 represents a win, + a draw and 0 a loss. The match is for the best of ten games.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

VELOURS AU SABRE
a. Silk fabric
b. Cavalry
c. A Dutch Old Master

FRIZZLES
a. Tightly curled hair
b. Cocktail snacks
c. Small fowl

MIDRASH
a. Biblical commentary
b. A fielding position at cricket
c. Herpes

NIDDY-NODDY
a. A fairy-tale evil character
b. A playground game
c. Tool for textiles

Answers on page 45

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Nanu — Herpai, Hungary, 1998. White has broken up the black kingside, but Black is preparing to mend the damage with ... Re8. How did White strike quickly before Black had time for this?

Solution on page 45

ons
HERBERT ALSOP
at Crantilly yesterday
WOOD SALES AND STAKES
SKY
DISCOUNT
MEDIAN AUCTION HOUSE
SPECIALISTS
BARON MEMORIAL CONDITIONAL APPLICABLE
SPECIALISTS

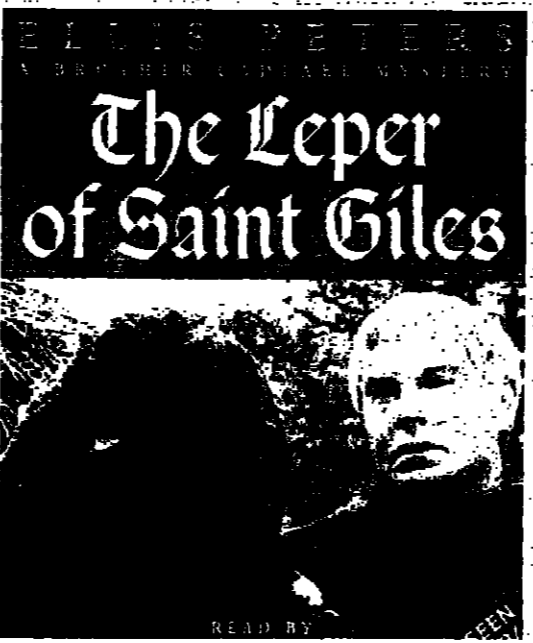
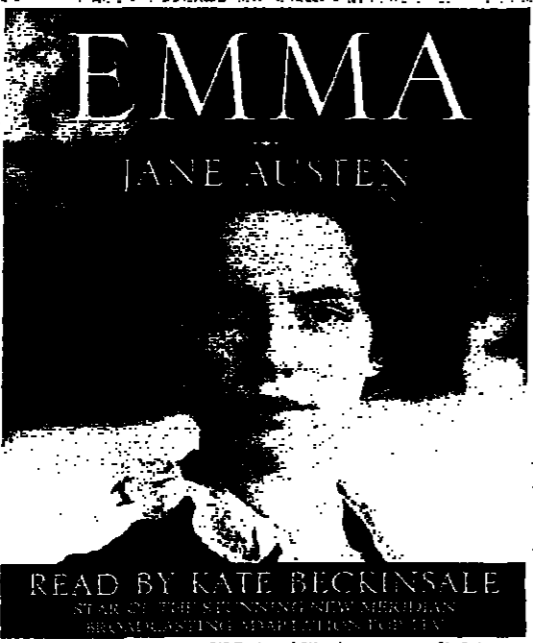
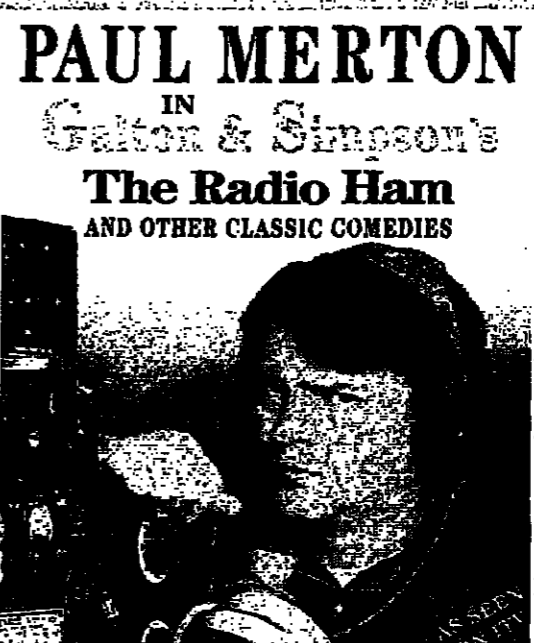
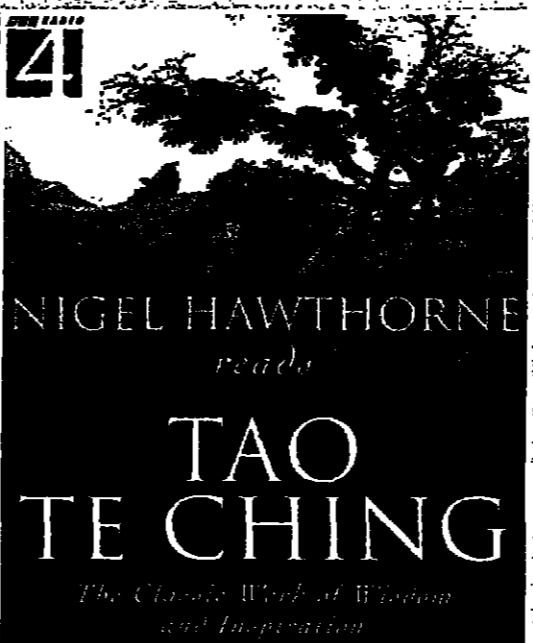
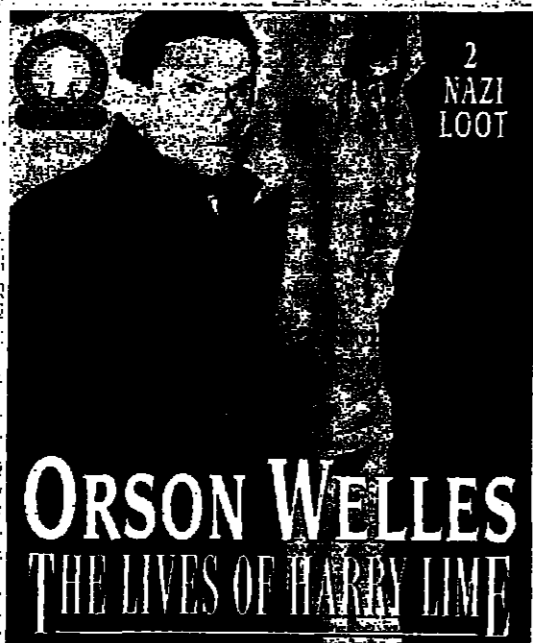
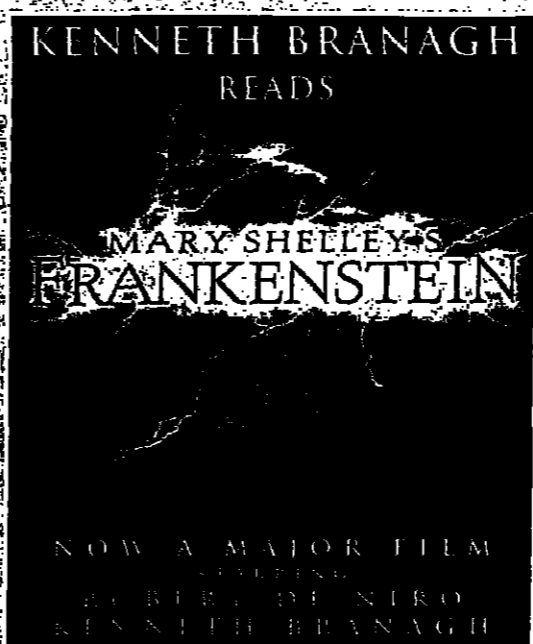
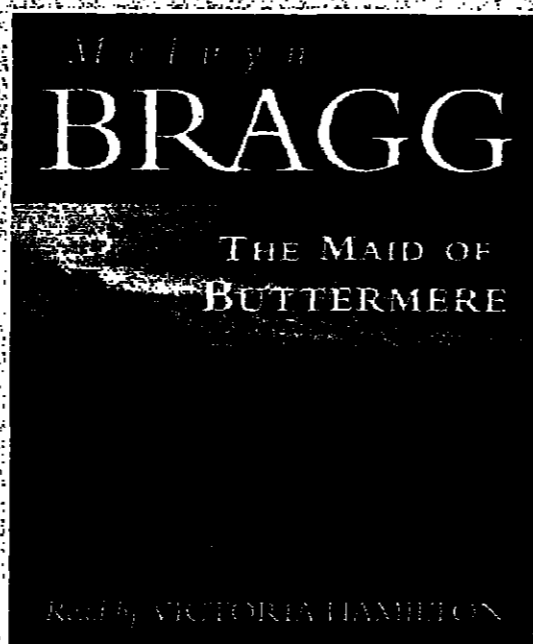
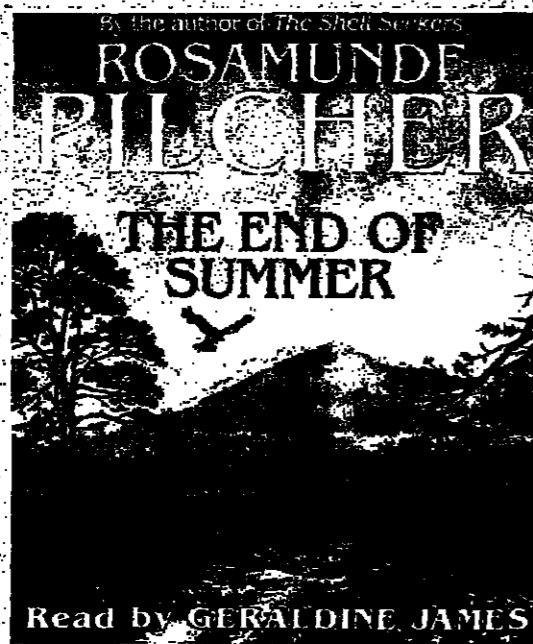
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CHANGING TIMES

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MONDAY JUNE 1 1998
THE TIMES
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Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Main table of equity prices with columns for company names, prices, changes, and various financial ratios like P/E and dividends. Categories include ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, HEALTHCARE, LEISURE & HOTELS, OIL & GAS, RETAILERS, FOOD, SUPPORT SERVICES, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER, and DISTRIBUTORS.

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interim: Ultratrane, Finis: Columbus Group, First Group, South Staffs Water. Economic statistics: UK May provisional MO, UK Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply May manufacturing sector survey.

TOMORROW

Interim: Apollo Metals, Character Group, Eurocamp, Landround, WEPC, Ushers of Trowbridge. Finis: De La Rue, Filotax Group, National Grid, Oxford Instruments, Selsia, Thomson Water, Vocalis Group, VodaStone Group. Economic statistics: UK Halifax May house price survey, UK April net new consumer credit, UK April final UK M4 lending, UK end-May of fiscal reserves.

WEDNESDAY

Interim: Asset Management, Bifick, Hewitt, Heals, Lookers Group, Morland, NFC, Finis: Bristol United Press, Cofyne, Evers of Leeds, Sarsby & McCowan Group, Victoria. Economic statistics: UK CIPS May services sector survey, Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee two-day meeting starts.

THURSDAY

Interim: Guinness Flight Extra Income, Finis: Agrigro Furniture, Boots, BTG, Capital Gearing Trust, Laminar, Pilkington, Powell Duffryn, Sedgemoor, Schwera, Southern Electric, S Group. Economic statistics: UK April new construction orders, CBI May distributive trades survey, UK Statistics of Motor Manufacturers and Traders May new car registrations, Bank of England MPC interest rate decision.

FRIDAY

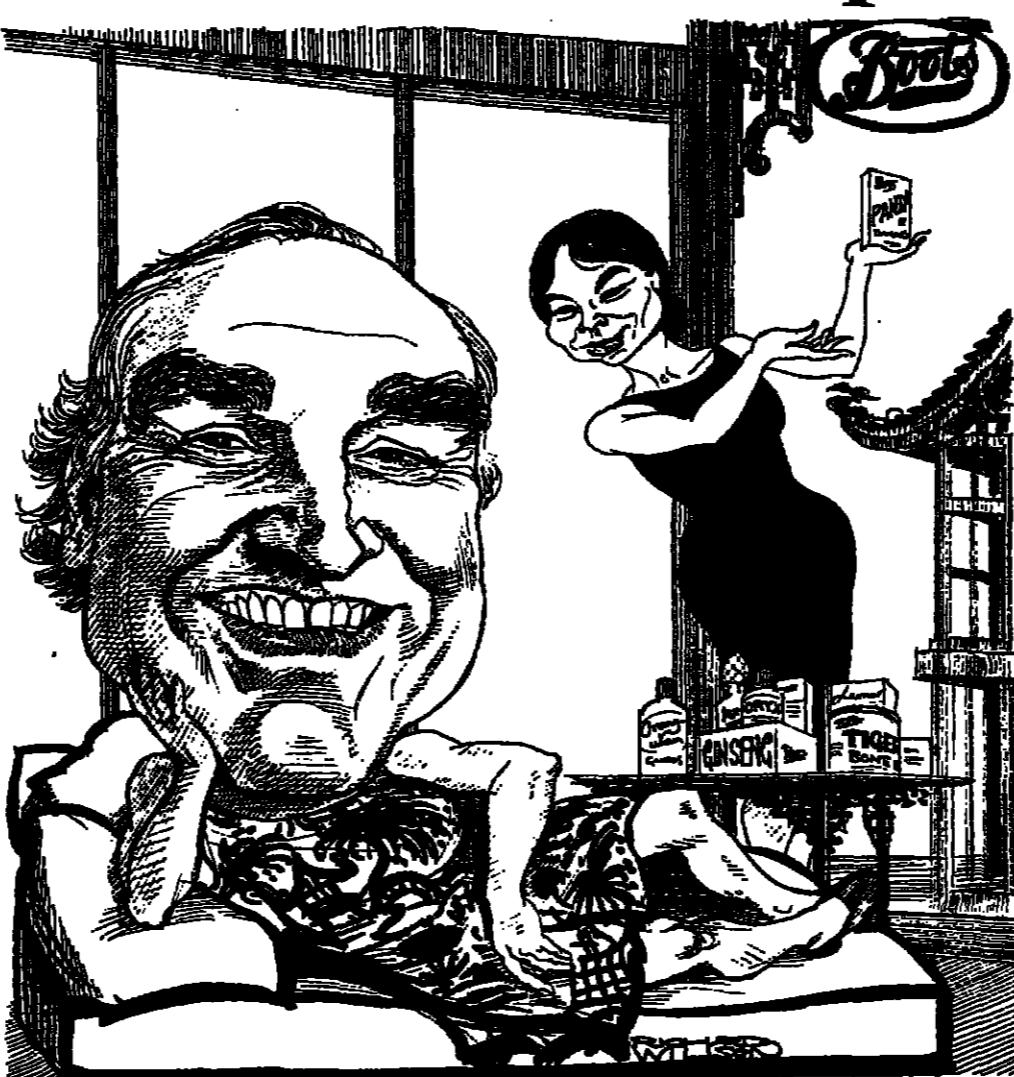
Interim: none scheduled. Finis: Baxi, Park Foods. Economic statistics: UK Q1 construction output.

FOURIST RATES

Table with columns for Bank, Bid, Ask, and various international rates for currencies like Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, etc.

Boots turns to East for a pick-me-up

BOOTS: The high street retailer may be expanding in exotic locations, but results for the year to March 31, due on Thursday, are unlikely to excite. BT Alex Brown, the broker, is looking for pre-tax profits of £550 million, up from £536.2 million last time, an increase of 3 per cent. Earnings per share are forecast to grow 6 per cent, from 39.1p to 41.3p. Boots' third-quarter trading statement to December 31 failed to match market expectations and resulted in some modest downgrades from analysts. They will be keen to see how much of a hit the group has taken from the fire that devastated Boots the Chemists' Nottingham warehouse last October. Recent reports have suggested that the fire wiped out about £30 million in sales. Profits will have been held back by the launch of the Advantage Card, which is likely to have set the group back a cool £20 million. The drop in net interest payable after the payment of last year's special dividend will also have taken its toll of profits. Meanwhile, the group pushes ahead with expansion abroad. Lord Blyth of Rowington, chief executive, will no doubt use the opportunity to give brokers a rundown of the expansion programme, which includes moves into such unusual places as Thailand. Despite a subdued profits performance, shareholders should still see a 10 per cent rise in the payout, from 20.5p to 22.5p.



Profits may not be exciting, but Lord Blyth is pushing ahead with expansion in exotic climes

VODAFONE: Full-year results tomorrow should confirm the group's position as Britain's biggest mobile-phone operator with strong growth in both domestic and international subscribers. Brokers are forecasting pre-tax profits of between £620 million and £655 million, compared with £539 million last time. BT Alex Brown is forecasting a final figure at the top end of the range of £651 million and earnings per share up from 11p to 13.8p. Vodafone should see the benefits of strong growth in both its domestic and international operations, with the rapidly maturing overseas businesses making a strong contribution to earnings. Vodafone has majority stakes in Panafon in Greece and Libertel in Holland. In Britain, accelerated subscriber growth, a slowing in

the decline in average revenue per user and lower subscriber acquisition costs will see profits grow by about 14 per cent. The final dividend is forecast at about 2.7p to 3p, making a total of 5.5p to 5.8p, compared with 4.81p. SIEBE: The fast-growing engineering group takes time off from the acquisition trail to unveil full-year results tomorrow. These are expected to show pre-tax profits up from £417.1 million to between £490 million and £500 million. SG Securities forecasts £493 million. Analysts will want to see whether Siebe can reach its own target for organic sales growth of

10 per cent. The strong pound will have cost the group £35 million, but margin growth will have been helped by the cost-cutting programme designed to save £90 million of costs by the turn of the century. A rise in the total dividend payout to between 16.1p and 16.3p a share is looked for, compared with 14.7p last time. NATIONAL GRID: Last year was a busy time for the company. After floating off 25 per cent of its holding in Energis, it was finally able to put a value on the business. It then set about a financial restructuring of the group, thereby returning £760 million to shareholders.

Full-year pre-tax profits tomorrow will come in at £487 million, down almost a third from the previous year's £685 million. Earnings per share will be down a quarter at 24.5p. The management has since been concentrating on bringing down costs in the main transmission business, with the group hoping to improve on the 9 per cent reduction achieved in the first six months. Despite the profits setback, the payout should be raised from 11.2p to 12p. SOUTHERN ELECTRIC: The group's undoubted ability to control costs is its strong point.

However, there may be signs of a slowdown in its ability to cut costs when final results are unveiled on Thursday. Brokers would be unperturbed by any such move, claiming that it may prove to be a prudent step before the forthcoming regulatory review. In any event, pre-tax profits are expected to come in slightly down on last year's figure of £250 million, with most brokers looking for between £240 million and £250 million. Earnings per share are likely to show a small improvement from 39.1p to 39.5p. Southern is the only regional electricity supplier investing up to the maximum on capital expenditure. Brokers say it is a strategy that makes sense because the group will receive a 7 per cent pre-tax real return on this investment under the regulatory formula. Once again, all eyes will be focused on the dividend, with the payout growing from 21.5p to almost 24p.

PILKINGTON: There is new management at the helm of Britain's biggest glassmaker. The City has high hopes that it can steer the group back on the road to recovery. Full-year results on Thursday may provide the first encouraging signs that Pilkington is at last over the worst, despite intense competition from continental rivals. Back in October, the group set out to reduce costs by £90 million, with the loss of 6,000 jobs and the disposal of unprofitable parts of the business. Costs of about £100 million will have been taken out this time round with write-downs totalling £200 million. Full-year profits, before exceptional items, will be about £112 million (£132 million). Earnings per share are also expected to decline from 5.8p to 5.5p, but the payout should be pegged at 5p.

PARK FOODS: Results on Friday are expected to reveal pre-tax profit of £7 million (£9.61 million). The hampers and vouchers specialist is set to unveil a full-year dividend of 2.98p to 3p, compared with 2.98p. Profits will be dragged down by a disappointing performance by the company's DJ Spudgies potato snacks business, which is expected to lose £2 million.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

New jitters for the FTSE

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee will hold its monthly interest rate meeting on Wednesday, yet its conclusions are likely to be overshadowed by events elsewhere in the world. Western markets are again looking highly vulnerable to the economic problems of Asia and latterly Russia, so events in both regions will be keenly watched. The looming threat of a rate rise in the US should also ensure a further nervous few days for the FTSE.

In contrast, a round of softish data and last month's quarterly Inflation Report - which showed the Bank on course to meet its target - has left the City convinced there will be no change in UK rates when the decision is announced on Thursday. The uncertainties are the arrival on the committee of John Vickers, the Bank's new executive director for monetary policy, and a possible hardening in the attitude of some of the hawkish members after strong earnings data and the decline in the value of the pound.

There is little other market-sensitive data in the UK, although the first May surveys will provide a pointer to the official figures later in the month. The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply's manufacturing and services surveys should provide further evidence of a slowing economy. The CBI distributive trades survey on Thursday is expected to show a weather-related bounce back in some high street sales but confirm an overall softer tone. Consumer credit growth, due tomorrow, is forecast to fall from £1.4 billion to £1.1 billion in April. The stock market is expected to be far more sensitive to the US employment data on Friday, with the chances of a Federal Reserve rate rise mounting. MMS International, the economics forecasting group, predicts that May non-farm payrolls will grow at a steady 220,000, while hourly earnings will tick up from 0.3 per cent to 0.4 per cent. The Fed may, however, be relieved to see a jump in the unemployment rate from 4.3 per cent to 4.5 per cent.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Bay Smiths Industries, PowerGen, The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Quanta; Sell Lloyds TSB. The Observer: Buy Kingfisher; The Mail on Sunday: Buy Seton Healthcare, Cranwick; Sell Powerscreen International. The Express on Sunday: Buy London International Group, Wilmington; Hold Northern Leisure. Independent on Sunday: Buy Trinity International.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

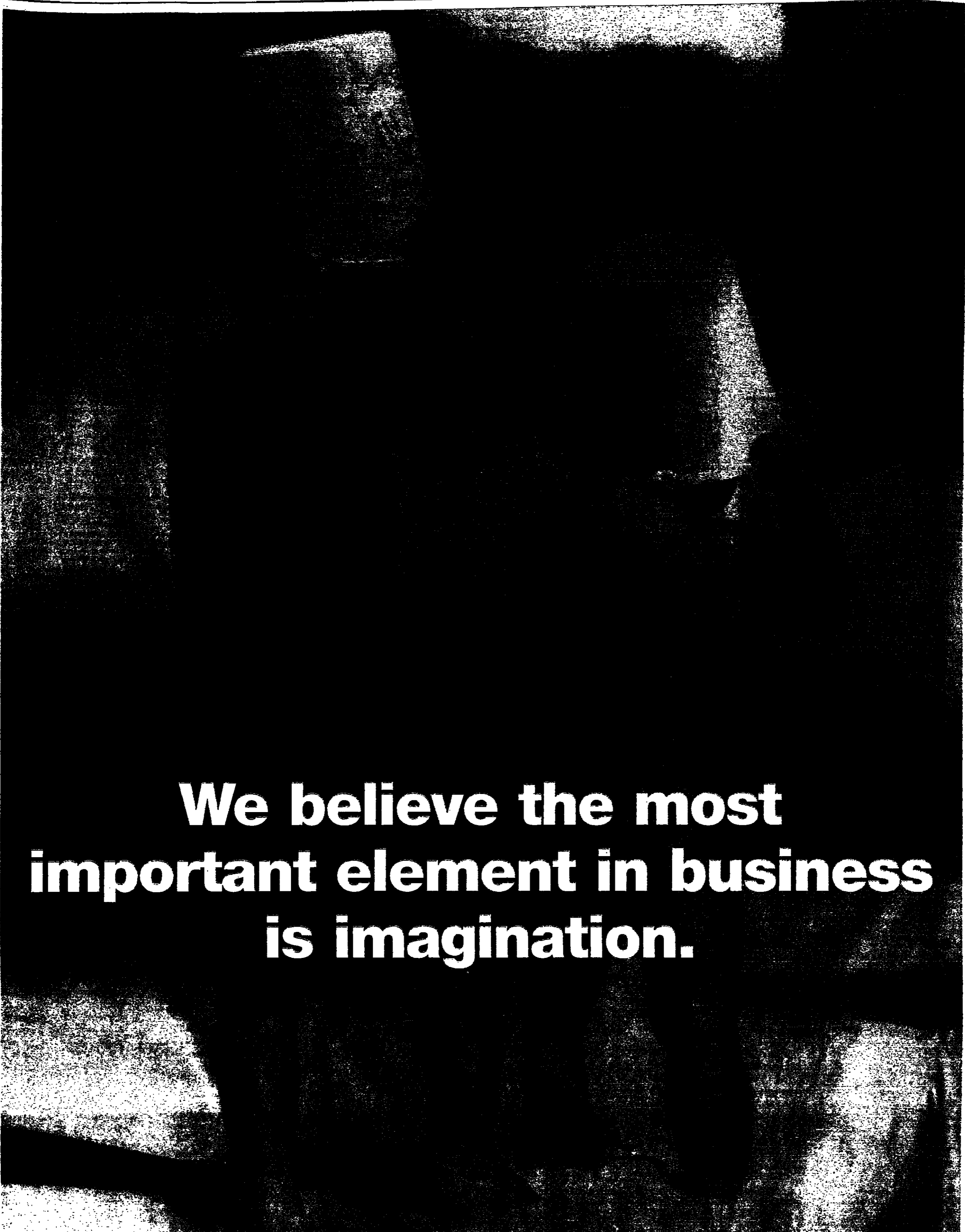
POLICY Master Group, a computer software house specialising in products for the insurance industry, is applying for a quotation on AIM that may value it initially at £15 million to £20 million. The company, established in 1994, has gained momentum, pushing turnover up by 22 per cent to £8.7 million. Pro forma operating profits grew from £375,000 in 1996 to £783,000 last year before goodwill charges. The group has 750 clients, mostly insurance companies with contracts up to £275,000. The quotation will cut borrowings, allow Gresham Trust, the venture capitalist, to make a partial exit and permit acquisitions. Executive directors, led by Stephen Verrall, will not sell shares before April 2000.

Large table with multiple columns listing various companies, their prices, and other financial metrics under the heading 'ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET'.

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COMPANIES 43
Boots turns its eyes to Eastern promise

BUSINESS

ROGER BOOTLE 46
Stock market accident waiting to happen



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY JUNE 1 1998

RBS to release Midlands from 'no bid talks' deal

By Sarah Cunningham
ROYAL Bank of Scotland (RBS) will this week release Birmingham Midlands from an agreement that stopped it talking to potential bidders in return for a payment of £5 million, plus a further £10 million if Halifax succeeds in its hope of taking over the building society.

RBS's earlier offer of £150 million. Under the terms of an agreement reached between RBS and Midlands last summer, the building society was unable to talk to any other suitors until the end of this year, even though the RBS offer has been formally rejected. Other bidders could yet emerge for Midlands once RBS formally releases it from the agreement. They could include Abbey National, Bank of Ireland, Lloyds TSB and Allied Irish.

But Halifax, which is looking for ways to rebuild its shrinking share of the new mortgage market after its demutualisation, has been seen as desperately keen to secure this deal and is therefore viewed as the frontrunner. Analysts say it has the most pressing need and the deepest pockets.

Banking on this, the terms laid out by Royal Bank of Scotland, which had offered to pay £630 million for Midlands, require that the building society will have to hand over a further £10 million should Halifax succeed in its takeover bid. If any other company were to take control, there would be no further payment to RBS.

The £5 million which Birmingham Midlands will have to pay upfront will go towards expenses RBS has incurred planning the abortive merger during its period of exclusivity.

The terms of the release were agreed after Birmingham Midlands approached the Royal Bank of Scotland three times. The bank dug its heels in twice because the building society refused to agree to make any payment. The third approach, made last month, led to this agreement.

Rolls owners ready to top VW's £430m

By Adam Jones
A GROUP of Rolls-Royce and Bentley enthusiasts claimed yesterday that it is close to trumping Volkswagen's £430 million bid for the luxury carmaker with a last-minute counter-offer.

The consortium of owners and their institutional backers, less than a dozen in all, faces an uphill battle to prove they have the money before shareholders of Vickers, which owns Rolls-Royce Motors, choose between the Volkswagen bid and a £340 million offer from BMW.

Michael Shrimpton, a barrister, has been trying to put together a deal backed by money from owners around the world for months. Yesterday he claimed that he had commitments from unnamed wealthy individuals and institutions that would enable them to offer more than VW, while being able to keep back a further £340 million for investment.

He said: "I'm confident that we will be able to bid." A company called Crewe Motors has been registered in the UK as a vehicle for the offer. Butterfield Securities is the merchant banking adviser, liaising with Lazard, the adviser to Vickers. Mr Shrimpton said Slaughter and May, the law firm, is also acting for the owners.

If they do bid, they will aim to demonstrate their ability to pay through bank guarantees and other documents. Mr Shrimpton said: "We have got a UK clearing bank as lead financial institution."

He said the owners could aim to float Rolls in three to five years and existing management, led by Graham Morris, would only say that its preference is still for BMW to buy Rolls. The aircraft-engine maker has a disputed contractual right to veto any foreign buyer.

Mr Shrimpton said it may be possible to use some of the high-temperature materials technology used by Rolls-Royce aircraft engines in Rolls-Royce cars.

Vickers said there had been no indication from BMW that it would be raising its bid to beat Volkswagen. Last week, BMW again denied that it was going to submit a higher offer after speculation that it might return to the negotiating table at the last minute.

One industry source claimed the only way BMW would be able to challenge VW and save face would be to come back with a new bidding partner.



Nikko in talks on investment bank merger

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor
NIKKO, Japan's third biggest securities group, is in talks that may result in a merger of its investment banking operations with those of Salomon Smith Barney and bring it within the orbit of America's biggest financial conglomerate. Reports from Tokyo suggest a deal could be reached this week.

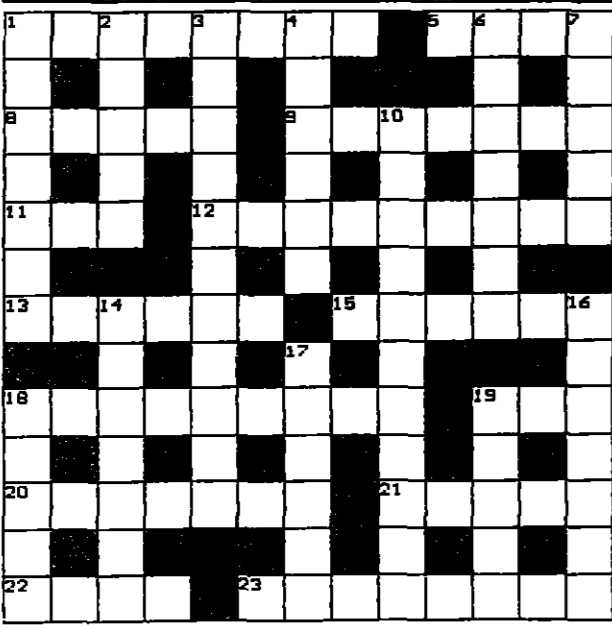
The complex deal, if consummated, will be the most spectacular example so far of the trend for Western firms to seize the opportunity offered by Asian financial woes to gain control of their former competitors.

Rabobank lifts spending

By Richard Miles, Banking Correspondent
RABOBANK, the biggest bank in The Netherlands, plans to spend more than £100 million extra this year building an investment bank in London.

Most of the money is earmarked for recruitment because Rabobank intends to grow its equities, fixed income and corporate advice businesses organically rather than by acquisition.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1420

- ACROSS**
1 Riding trousers (8)
5 Devotional picture (4)
8 WI dance in which one is forgotten (5)
9 Persian, Roman sun god (7)
11 A climbing shrub (3)
12 Vague, unrealistic (4-5)
13 "Come unto these - sands" (Tenness) (6)
15 Tiredness after flight (3-3)
16 Performance, translation (9)
19 2001 computer; the Bluff King (3)
20 Make (one) jump (7)
21 Elegant (slang); audible sweep through air (5)
22 Look for sounds like an Indian (4)
- DOWN**
23 (Delegate) instructed (8)
1 Good-humoured enjoyment (7)
2 Short and fat (5)
3 Principal (orig. actor) (11)
4 Notice; observation (6)
6 A drink; warm, heartfelt (7)
7 Unpleasant (5)
10 Stuck up (6-5)
14 Ancestry (7)
15 Son of Lancelot; the pure knight (7)
17 Picture-house (6)
18 Flowers; they bloomed in Peardry (5)
19 Lift (via pulley) (5)

- SOLUTION TO NO 1419**
ACROSS: 1 Unprepared 8 Drizzle 9 Dogma 10 Flex 11 Alacrity 13 Cupola 15 Allight 17 Ensemble 18 Oche 21 Clean 22 Account 23 Stony-broke
- DOWN: 2 Naive 3 Raze 4 Paella 5 Riddle 6 Digging 7 Easy Street 8 Deficiency 12 Flamenco 14 Posses 16 Albany 19 Caulk 20 Scar**
- SOLUTION TO MONDAY SPRING BANK HOLIDAY JUMBO**
ACROSS: 1 Irrascible 6 Last Post 10 Progress 15 The Barber of Seville 16 Ethiopia 18 Radii 19 Sol-disant
20 Enchantress 21 Open-minded 22 Robinson Crusoe 23 Ith 27 Sotto voce 28 Marvellous 31 Policewoman
32 Meditate 34 Gallie 36 Cosmopolitans 38 Regret 40 Signet 42 Remiss 43 Offend 45 Cross-breeding
46 Nicksy 47 Raggledy 49 Lady's-finger 52 On thin ice 53 Etymology 55 Kapt 58 Glory-of-the-snow
60 Bafflemeat 63 Nostradamus 65 Gun-runner 66 Smart 67 Suckling 68 Move heaven and earth 69 Deserter 70 One-sided 71 Swellered
- DOWN: 1 Welier 2 Aberdeen 3 Charismatic 4 Babes in the Wood 5 Earliness 6 Lettie 7 See-saw 8 Points of order 9 Self-evident 11 Retraining 12 Gull 13 Empress of Blandings 14 St Austell 17 Acts 23 Re-examine 24 Stone Age 25 Cosmos 28 Witnessed 29 Spectrum 30 Bless my cotton socks 32 Mainframe 35 Category 37 Obscurity 39 Good look 41 Cross-reference 44 Daddy-long-legs 45 Ceylon 48 Greasy spoon 50 Impression 51 Diffidence 52 Organised 54 Yearnings 56 Repairer 57 Stitched 59 Hump 61 Indeed 62 Curved 64 Ruler**

Sitel invests \$100m in call centre plan

By Sarah Cunningham
SITEL, the American call centre operator, is planning to invest \$100 million (£60 million) in the UK in the next five years and to increase its British workforce from 2,500 to more than 12,000.

The company, which claims to be the largest tele services company in the world, aims for outsourcing contracts and is targeting utilities, telecommunications and financial services industries, as well as local and central government. Paul Cresswell, managing director of Sitel UK, said that, with 90 per cent of call centres run in-house, there is huge scope to persuade companies to cut their costs by outsourcing.



Cresswell: outsource drive

Electricity suppliers 'will fall'

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent
FULL competition in electricity will put such downward pressure on prices that about half of the present 15 electricity suppliers will be squeezed out through merger, acquisition or withdrawal from the market, a report from Coopers & Lybrand predicts.

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Hallifax Life	£34.92	Block Horse (Lloyds)	£63.60
Commercial Union	£36.00	Hallifax Life	£68.34
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Northern Rock increases staff to handle withdrawals

NORTHERN ROCK, the Newcastle bank being investigated by the Office of Fair Trading, has drafted in extra staff to cope with savers wanting to withdraw or transfer their money (Susan Emmett writes).

The bank said that priority was being given to cheque withdrawals, but it would not disclose how many are being made.

OFT investigation into the bank's handling of a recent shake-up of accounts that left one in five savers worse off. Rates were dramatically cut without notice and the number of accounts was reduced from 11 to three.

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